

FOCUS

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Heisman—the musical?

John Rafferty takes you inside this song and dance that explores the life of the famed football player and coach, John Heisman. **Page 21**

Volleyball victories

Tech's women's volleyball team defeated the University of Georgia for the fourth consecutive year Tuesday. **Page 31**



Nearby Atlantic Station develops, impacts students

The continuing development of Atlantic Station is effecting the Home Park Community, which is located just north of campus and filled with Tech students, with increased traffic congestion, pollution and property values.



By Peter Jensen / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Atlantic Station is currently under construction and is easily viewed from many of Atlanta's major arteries. Leasees are scheduled to begin their occupancy in July 2003; the 17th street bridge will open in January 2004.

By Joey Katzen
Staff Writer

Looming directly west of the downtown connector at the northern end of Midtown, the Atlantic Station mega development promis-

es significant changes to the habits of Georgia Tech and surrounding residents. Heralded as the poster child of "smart growth," the new city-within-a-city is expected to house ten thousand people and provide offices for over thirty thousand, di-

rectly impacting population and mobility trends within the in-town area.

Born as the brainchild of developer Jim Jacoby in the late 1990s, the project is the largest "brown-field" development in the country,

so noted for rehabilitating a polluted industrial zone for use as viable real estate. The land on which Atlantic Station currently rises once housed the Atlantic Steel Hoop and Barrel Company from 1901 until it forged its last strand of steel wire in 1995, when it existed as an industrial anachronism against the backdrop of contemporary office skyscrapers.

Now on that same land, the new project calls for 1.6 million square feet of retail, restaurant and entertainment space, and six million square feet of office space in a series of towers and mid-rise buildings. By comparison, Lenox Square is just under 1.5 million square feet of retail space, and the square footage of the Bank of America tower, One Atlantic Center, and Sun Trust Plaza have a combined total about half of what Atlantic Station is expected to hold. It additionally will contain large numbers of apartments and condos in various forms that range from high-rises to row houses.

As far as tenants, Atlantic Station has, to date, either talked with or been rumored to have had discussions to hold a state-of-the-art United Artists cinema complex, a Virgin Records megastore, a Johnny Rocket's restaurant, a Barnes and

Noble bookstore and a storefront by The Limited Inc.

Additionally, South Trust bank has signed on to lease space in the project's tallest tower, vacating its current offices on North Avenue. But unlike traditional office parks or malls, Atlantic Station is being hailed as an urban Valhalla amidst a sea of monotonous suburbia encircling the city. It will be composed of city blocks with dense development: retail on the ground floors with housing or offices above. Parking will be provided only in parallel spots on the street and in hidden two-story underground decks that span the entire eastern portion of the project. And unlike the traditional suburban model that separates residential, office, and commercial uses, Atlantic Station will pack all of this into one "mixed-use" area that can rival the population density of many of America's best downtowns.

The area is expected to look and feel like a city, connected to midtown by a new 17th Street bridge (to be completed in late 2003) that will extend the road to Northside Drive and potentially by a rail transit line that could connect with the Arts Center or North Avenue MAR-

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Changes for GT Edge? Tech's construction boom explained

By Jennifer Lee
Contributing Writer

Recently, several members of Georgia Tech's Presidents' Council Governing Board met with Vice-President of Student Affairs, Lee Wilcox, to talk about the status of a program that may or may not be familiar to Tech students: GT Edge.

GT Edge is a co-curricular transcript program created seven years ago by Andrea Hoffer, now the manager of Tech Recreation. Formally launched in 1996, GT Edge started as an Auxiliary Services program under the Student Center whose focus was to encourage well-rounded individuals, thereby giving Tech students an "edge" in the career world.

Originally, the program was similar to an academic transcript. Instead of listing classes taken, however, the GT Edge transcript listed a student's experiences that contributed to six different focus areas: academic and intellectual competence, career development, appreciation of world and diversity issues, leadership development, wellness and personal balance and community service.

Another important aspect of the original program was mentoring. Each student would talk to their mentor about career goals and areas he or she was weak in, and the mentor would help the student find experiences on campus to help build those skills. However, despite an effort to recruit Tech faculty and staff, it was difficult to get enough for the program, especially because student interest in the program was strong.

The original program faded. Hoffer explains, "It's not easy to keep up a program like that. It was difficult to find mentors, and the students start to drop off, too, because as they got more involved with the difficulties of the classroom, they didn't want to keep meeting with their mentor, and they didn't want to have to write about their experiences."

Therefore, Hoffer instituted a new program in 1998, in which each student had to attend three GT Edge-sponsored events in each of the six target areas, for a total of 18 activities. The hope was that GT Edge would act as a sort of "umbrella" for campus activities: each Edge-certified event would have a logo, so that students enrolled in the program would be encouraged to attend various activities. That way, Hoffer says, "It really complemented their academic and social development."

The new model worked better and generated more interest as well. However, the mentor aspect was dropped. Hoffer says this made the program lose some of its continuity, since the GT Edge transcript no longer included activities such as being president of an organization for two years. "That always bothered me," says Hoffer.

When Hoffer left two years later, the program was going strong. However, soon after, the program underwent a number of directorial changes. Hoffer's duties were divided up, and at one point, there

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By Christine Rutz
Contributing Writer

Within the last year, everyone at Georgia Tech has noticed the dramatic increase in construction projects around campus: if you live on West campus, it's SAC II and the new Student Health Center; if you live on East campus, it's the renovations to Bobby Dodd Stadium and the new Engineering, Science and Technology Building by the baseball stadium; and if you commute, it's the brand new "Technology Square" across the interstate on Fifth Street that has you dodging manhole covers and dump trucks.

"The Olympics were a warm-up for what we're doing now," said Donald P. Alexander, Manager of Facilities Engineering, on the plethora of construction projects on Tech's campus.

One of the integral parts of any university planning system is its "Master Plan," however, the master plan is a living document and is continuously revised. The system actually dates back to 1912, when the first master plan for Tech's campus was conceived.

As the needs of the campus have changed, so have the master plans— notable updates to the plan occurred in 1952, 1965, 1991 and, most recently, in 1997 under President Wayne Clough. You can view the previous and current plans for campus at <http://www.space.gatech.edu/masterplan.htm>.

In 1997, Clough outlined a seven part strategic plan for Georgia Tech. One facet of the plan was to

improve the infrastructure of campus to make more effective use of space and to upgrade existing facilities. Once the strategic plan was set in motion, an analysis on several levels has determined the specifics of the improvements.

Mike Patterson, Director of Design and Construction, explained

that the first analysis determined what improvements were necessary academically; from there, the campus was divided into sectors for a more detailed analysis of the existing buildings and space.

Throughout the analyzing pro-

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By Kevin Schattuck / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Construction projects abound around Tech, including this new building being erected as part of the Whitaker Biomedical Engineering building.

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cess, the financing for all these costly projects had to be considered. As a member of the University System of Georgia, Tech is entitled to governmental resources, but this is not sufficient for all the improvements called for in the master plan.

Major portions of the funding for projects such as Technology Square come from an entity called the "Capital Campaign," whose goal included raising \$600,000,000 from alumni, individual, foundation and corporation contributions, with \$110,000,000 of that allocated for campus facilities and equipment.

The Capital Campaign is run by the Georgia Tech Foundation; most students are familiar with this foundation because it's where all of the Roll Call donations go.

Because Roll Call funds are predominantly "unrestricted" monies, meaning they can be allocated as the

institution chooses, some of our donations to Roll Call end up in the Capital Campaign. Money from the campaign is used as collateral for construction loans; eventually, revenue from the bookstore, hotel and conference center will repay the loans.

Generally, educational and research facilities are financed by the state, with assistance from private donors. For example, the Clouse Advanced Computing Building was originally funded by a private donor, with the state kicking in the balance of the funds. Student fees and entities like the Capital Campaign support auxiliary facilities such as student housing and recreational buildings.

Once the funding is in place, the selection process for architects and contractors can start. For large projects, a project management com-

mittee places an advertisement for the job. Interested companies respond and prepare bids for the contract. After an initial evaluation, the finalists make a presentation before the committee as the deciding factor.

Amazingly enough, the number of Tech grads working for a company has no influence as to the committee's selection. Rather, the committee simply assumes that any reputable engineering, construction or architectural firm in Atlanta will have Tech grads on the staff.

Projects are prioritized based on academic and physical needs of the

campus. Before any construction project can begin, Georgia Tech must get permission from the Georgia Board of Regents, the governing body of all state schools. Some of the factors

that go in to the prioritization of large scale construction projects are the capital value potential for Georgia Tech, the academic or auxiliary need and the requirements of the Board of Regents.

Finally, the big question on the minds of all the students living in East campus housing across from Bobby Dodd stadium—who makes the decision to leave the stadium lights on at night? Actually, it's a technical reason—lights that size require a burn-in period to ensure that they are free from defects and that Tech won't have an embarrassing light failure at its first night game.

To learn more visit www.facilities.gatech.edu for schedules, updates and photographs of all current projects.

"The Olympics were a warm-up for what we're doing now"

Donald P. Alexander
Manager of Facilities
Engineering

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may have been as many as three different people who were advisor for GT Edge in an 18 month period.

Currently, GT Edge is a part of Student Affairs. Courtney Dubois, who is Program Coordinator for Student Affairs, is now in charge of GT Edge, having picked up the program last fall. "By the time it came to me," Dubois says, "It had really lost its focus and its enthusiasm."

As of now, there are 320 students officially enrolled in GT Edge and whose names appear in the database. Only two students, on record, have completed the requirements to graduate with a GT Edge certificate. Dubois says that when she took over the program, "I thought there were many more active students than there are. It's difficult to find active students because you can take a class once a semester and have it count towards your credit." Also, she states that there may be a lot of students left over from the program's Student Center days.

When flyers that were sent out last year to freshmen didn't generate much interest, Dubois says, "We first got the indication that we're not getting the numbers, we're not getting the new people that we need to get to make this happen."

So Dubois asked the help of Presidents' Council: "We'll be working with Presidents' Council to find new ways to revitalize and reenergize the program." At the meeting with Wilcox, Presidents' Council Governing Board members discussed the status of the program and where it is now, and made plans to continue investigating the program and ultimately decide how much needs to go into its maintenance.

What came out of the meeting, says Danielle McDonald, who is the advisor for Presidents' Council, was a determination to research ways to make the program better by talking to other schools and employers, "to help it become something more



By Danielle Bradely / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Martial arts classes once qualified for the wellness requirement under the original form of GT Edge, Tech's co-curricular transcript program.

students want to be involved with." Factors such as how they market the program, and ideas such as expanding the GT Edge transcript to include undergraduate research and past employment history, are being considered, but, McDonald notes, "They're really still assessing the program; we haven't really gone that far."

Dubois says, "What the transcript looks like may change, but we will always have some sort of co-curricular transcript program." For the next year, the program will mostly remain the same as the Governing Board continues with their research.

Both McDonald and Dubois assert, however, that the focus of GT Edge is still quite career-based, although nowadays, says McDonald, a lot of it depends on the individual.

Andrea Hoffer says, "When we first started doing this, the reason career services was so supportive was because they said employers really looked for something like this." Dubois agrees: "[The GT Edge certificate] gives credibility to your leadership experience, because for the event to be recorded, you have to actually have attended. So the employer knows that when he sees the GT Edge certificate, it's a credible

and reliable source, as opposed to something that could be embellished."

McDonald adds that Presidents' Council role in GT Edge is also one of responsibility. Currently, \$2,000 a year of Presidents' Council's budget is spent hiring a student assistant who keeps track of the students enrolled, and the events and programs attended. McDonald says, "The Presidents' Council feels that if they're going to be asking money from student government for this budget, then it should be a program that will help students." Also, student organizations may also benefit from increased participation in their events if they fall under the GT Edge program.

"Presidents' Council has projects that they put on every year as well, so their resources are sort of stretched," McDonald says, but asserts, "But they do feel a commitment to researching this. We can't predict what will come out of it; that depends on what they find out."

She adds, "[The research] will also involve talking with the people that are already in the program. That's what hasn't happened yet, and that's the really important part. We wouldn't want to take any more steps before that."

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TA stations.

This mega development, although currently isolated from Midtown, directly abuts the Home Park neighborhood, which runs north from 10th Street to 16th and roughly from the Interstate west to Northside Drive. Its borders encompass a mixed group of people that have lived for several years in the shadow of the dormant Atlantic Steel mill. As the mill's production wound down in the '90s, the demographics of the area began to shift from working class millers to Tech students and other citizens either intrigued by the subdivision or unable to afford mortgages elsewhere in the city.

It is these residents who have banded together to form the Home Park Community Improvement Association (HPCIA), a civic group founded to focus and communicate the neighborhood's interests.

When news first broke in 1998 of Jacoby's intent to acquire and redevelop the Atlantic Steel property, the HPCIA took notice, but it worked with his company to settle on solutions that could keep both the Association and Atlantic Station happy. As plans for the project have further developed, however, the HPCIA has occasionally been at odds with Jacoby due in part to the considerable vehicular traffic the development is expected to produce. Jacoby's current plans for Atlan-

tic Station call for extending State Street north of 16th Street and into the project as a major arterial road and maintaining the connections to Mecalun, Atlantic, Fowler and other streets that run perpendicular to the regraded and widened 16th. Though medians will be in place to prevent traffic from turning into the neighborhood from westbound 16th Street, many neighbors would like the project to install cul-de-sacs limiting cross-through traffic.

Many students and city residents

"The HPCIA is aiming to prevent any such massive reshaping of the area"

have grown concerned that the project will lead to a gentrified Home Park that will be unaffordable to and incompatible with its current dwellers. However, Public Policy undergrad Daniel Crook, whose family owns a house at the southern edge of the neighborhood, remains sanguine.

He noted that, "Home Park is full of smaller houses designed for working-class mill employees. For it to be attractive to the same people who are looking to buy at Atlantic Station's townhomes and condos,

they'd have to demolish and rebuild much of the neighborhood."

He continued, "If that were even to happen, it would take years to finish and raise property values." In fact, the HPCIA is aiming to prevent any such massive reshaping of the area, drafting covenants to protect its cozy single-family nature.

Because of the potentially sudden shift in development patterns as one walks or drives from Atlantic Station into Home Park, Jacoby has promised to donate two trees to every home in the subdivision to improve the air quality and aesthetics of the area. Current plans also call for a linear park to be built along Mecalun Street from the new development south to 14th Street.


Although much of the current interest centers around Jacoby's plans for the reconfigured land, additional future proposals are in the works for the "West Midtown" area to become more pedestrian-friendly.

The HPCIA has mulled ideas to improve Northside Drive and Hemphill Avenue with better urban development, and the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority has engaged in initial studies to connect the area around Atlantic Station to downtown, Emory and Athens via a commuter rail link.

For further information about the Atlantic Station development or Home Park neighborhood, check out atlanticstation.com or homepark.org.

Tech Up Close

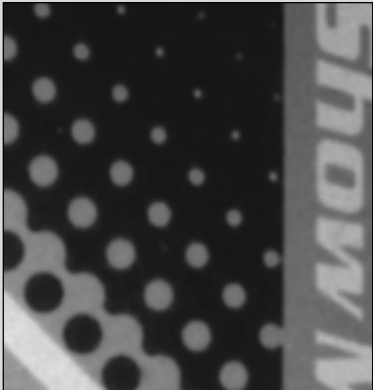
email: focus@technique.gatech.edu



Winner of the Tech Up Close contest receives a *Technique* T-shirt and a coupon for a free student combo at Li'l Dino's.

Last week's Tech Up Close:
Dance Dance Revolution
game pad in the Student
Center

Last week's winner:
Alan Back



By Kimberly Hinckley / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS