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# THE WHISTLE

FACULTY/STAFF NEWSPAPER

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THE GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

## 2001: A year in review



photo by Andrew Olechny

### September 14

**T**he campus was shaken to its very foundation on September 11, when passenger planes struck the Pentagon and the World Trade Towers, killing thousands and altering the course of a nation.

At left, an unwavering show of strength, unity and humanity across the entirety of campus marked a September 14 remembrance service for the victims and their families of the terrorist attacks in New York City, Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania. The service was wrought with poignancy and raw emotions as faculty, staff and students — estimated at 10,000 in all — came together

around the Campanile to try and make some sense of it all.

Undergraduate Student Government President Chris Kavanaugh said, “We have come here together in a day of remembrance for those who have died in the tragic events of the week. We join our hands, our voices and our hearts, and in unison, we mourn for our fellow citizens. While although at first glance it appears as though America has been weakened, today, with all of you here, the Georgia Institute of Technology has shown the world that just the opposite has occurred ... we are stronger than ever.”

### growth and change

**A**s ground was broken on Tech’s most ambitious construction project of 2001, the two-year, \$180-million complex known as Technology Square, the Institute’s reach was extended across the interstate, reconnecting campus with Midtown’s business and commercial district.

Recognized by the Atlanta Business Chronicle as the Best Mixed Use Project of the year, Tech Square will combine education and research with hospitality and commerce when completed in the fall of 2003.

Gov. Roy Barnes said, “Our

economy is changing from one where the currency was dollars and cents to one in which knowledge, information and speed are the currency.”

Georgia Tech and Technology Square are important to this transition, he said. “If you don’t have the trained and educated work force that comes from higher standards, better education and more current skills, then you won’t be able to go any further. Georgia Tech plays a very crucial role in creating the much-needed new human capital for this economy that is emerging.”



### awards and recognitions

**A**t 22 years old, graduate student Will Roper had what some would call a career year. In April, Roper was selected as one of 80 national scholars – and the only one from Georgia – for the Truman Scholarship, which provides funding for graduate school based upon leadership potential, academic achievement and commitment to public service.

Then in December, Roper became



photo by Daniel Uhlig

the first Tech student in 50 years to secure a Rhodes Scholarship, affording him the opportunity to more fully explore his ideals as he studies at Oxford University in England.

“I love education, and I think there are a lot of problems with math education. My absolute dream job is to become the U.S. Secretary of Education. Having a Rhodes will give me a chance. Maybe it will open a few doors,” he said.

### milestones

**R**acial barriers fell at Georgia Tech 40 years ago when three black students — (from left) Ralph Long Jr., Ford Greene and Lawrence Williams — joined the ranks of 1,200 freshmen on Sept. 18, 1961.

The peaceful integration was a testament to the leadership of Tech



President Edwin Harrison, who resolutely determined that desegregation of the Institute would be handled as routinely as possible. In the tension-charged atmosphere of the times, when sparks of social change exploded in demonstrations and riots, it was a remarkable achievement. Harrison died in October.

## “QUOTE— UNQUOTE”

“The development of biotechnology at Georgia Tech provides a case study that illustrates how a sustained vision, critical private support and the right talent lead to results.”  
—*President Wayne Clough, on the rapid growth and national recognition of Tech’s Petit Institute for Bioengineering and Bioscience*  
(*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*)

“All of these projects are significant to our strategic goals of improving our campus and reconnecting to Midtown. We are designing them to complement Midtown.”  
—*Joel Hercik, associate vice president of financial services, on the \$184 million worth of revenue bonds to be sold on Tech’s behalf this month to fund the construction of Technology Square.*  
(*The Bond Buyer*)

## awards and recognitions

Three faculty members — Dale Atkins, Ed Thomas and Brian Woodall — were inducted into **Omicron Delta Kappa**. Known primarily as a student leadership and scholastic honorary society, membership is considered the highest leadership honor available at Tech.

Two Tech **coaches receive national recognition** for their efforts as football coach George O’Leary is named national coach of the year, and basketball coach Paul Hewitt was selected as the Atlantic Coast Conference coach of the year.



Regents’ Professor Mostafa El-Sayed, the Julius Brown Professor in the School of Chemistry and Biochemistry, received the 2002 Irving Langmuir Award in Chemical Physics, the nation’s highest prize in that field.

Georgia Tech became the number one producer of African-American engineers in the country, according to a report from the journal *Black Issues in Higher Education*. During the 1999-2000 academic year, Tech awarded more bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees to African-American engineering students than any other university or college in the nation. The National Society of Black Engineers also honored Tech’s graduate program in engineering as the top choice among the 10,000 student and professional members of the (NSBE), according to a survey conducted by the organization.



photo by Stanley Leary

Graduate education at Tech continues its strong showing in **national magazine rankings** as programs in the College of Engineering, the College of Sciences and Ivan Allen College garner top 10 placements.

Georgia Tech claimed the second-highest number of faculty members with National Science Foundation (**NSF**) **CAREER Awards** — 58 in all — in the country last year. Rounding out the top five: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (64), MIT (56), University of Michigan (54) and Pennsylvania State University (48).

Public Policy student **Sara Cames** spent fall semester serving as one of only two interns working with U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist, monitoring domestic and foreign current events and regularly briefing Rehnquist on her findings.

Tech’s efforts to improve the ways that people work together resulted in the Institute receiving a 2001 **Exemplary Voluntary Efforts (EVE) Award** from the U.S. Department of Labor, which honors federal contractors and associations for their innovative efforts to increase employment opportunities for minorities, women, disabled citizens and veterans.

College of Computing research scientist **Andy Ozment** was one of 40 national winners of the 2002 **Marshall Scholarship** award, granting him two years of graduate study in England.

Tech’s top faculty honor, the **Distinguished Professor Award**, was given to James Meindl.

## research and innovation

James Meindl, director of the Microelectronics Research Center, presented a report on the **fundamental limit of microelectronics**. In it, he and collaborator Jeffrey Davis conclude that future engineering design will be determined by “a hierarchy of physical limits.”

The refinement of prostate brachytherapy treatment is one result of Eva Lee’s work in the **treatment of cancer**, merging advanced mathematical techniques with cutting-edge computer technology for the optimal placement of radioactive “seeds” to improve tumor control and reduce side effects. Lee is an assistant professor in the School of Industrial and Systems Engineering.



photo by Stanley Leary

The work of Chemical Engineering Professors Jan Gooch and Joseph Schork (above) in biocompatible skin barriers — a gel that can treat and protect wounds from microorganism infections — entered the clinical-trial phase, but a military ramp-up as a result of September’s attacks may speed up the process.

**SMARTAQ**, an activity-based travel survey designed to help regional planners make sound decisions affecting metro transportation issues, recruited its first participants. Data from the surveys will offer a better understanding of how investment in land-use and transportation affects mobility, air quality and health.

A new grant allowed Mark Hay, a professor in the School of Biology, to create a new research center for his **Signals in the Sea** project, which studies chemical signaling in aquatic ecosystems, linking Tech with top marine science institutions.

The wider implementation of the CoWeb application in the classroom extended Tech’s commitment to **digital communications** and provided a constant forum online for more thorough class discussions.

By integrating silicon circuits with nerve cells, Biomedical Engineering Professor Bill Ditto and his research team worked to create the first generation of **hybrid biological computers**. His team scored its first breakthrough — doing arithmetic with two neurons derived from leeches.



photo by Laurel Crafts

The Library and Information Center joined with the Office of Information Technology to unveil the Local Area Walkup/Wireless Network, or **LAWN**, granting employees and faculty easier access to campus computing services in the Library. Wireless antennae became available, allowing users with a wireless card access to the Library’s online services from anywhere on campus.



### THE WHISTLE

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# growth and change

**Construction projects** abound, as Georgia Tech makes academic, athletic and aesthetic improvements to campus, though no new parking to accommodate the growth. The 850-space North Campus Parking Deck, whose opening was delayed by construction flaws, is expected to be completed in the coming weeks.

Two years after being established, the Georgia Tech Regional Engineering Program (**GTREP**) graduated its first eight students at fall commencement.

Several athletic facilities underwent major renovations. **Russ Chandler Stadium** was razed and rebuilt as a modern, 5,000-seat ballpark with improved access and private suites and will be ready for the 2002 baseball season.

**Ruthie Beck**, who began working in Brittain Dining Hall in 1941, celebrated her 50th year at Tech.

**Brittain Dining Hall**, built shortly after World War I, closes in March to get a \$1.4-million facelift before reopening to students in the fall.

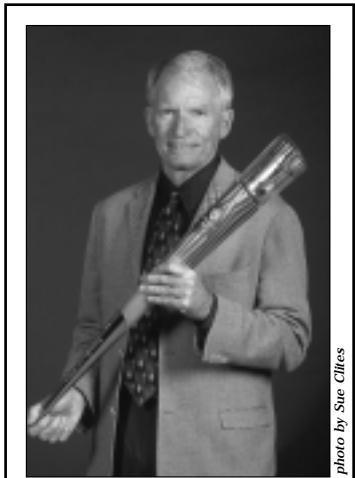
To help give incoming freshmen some insight into the academic rigors of a collegiate environment, Institute Communications and Public Affairs and the Office of Enrollment Services collaborated on a resource website called **success@georgia.tech** that provides practical information, advice from professors and student testimonials on surviving the first year.

The prestigious National Academy of Engineering named **Bruce Ellingwood**, chair of the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, as one of its newest members.

The north stands of Bobby Dodd Stadium were demolished to allow a 14,000-seat **stadium expansion and renovation**. The stands, built in 1958, are part of the oldest on-campus stadium facility in use in NCAA Division I-A.

**April Brown** succeeded Mark Smith as President Clough's new executive assistant.

**Jean-Lou Chameau**, dean of the College of Engineering, was tapped to become provost of the Institute, capping a 10-month search for Mike Thomas's successor. Narl Davidson was named interim dean of the college.



Based upon his experience with the 1996 torch, Salt Lake City officials tapped Tech Professor Sam Shelton to build the torch for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games.

Tech filled several vacant departmental chairs: **Bill Long**, School of International Affairs; **Willie Pearson**, School of History, Technology and Society; **William Rouse**, School of Industrial and Systems Engineering; and **Phillip McKnight**, School of Modern Languages.

New faculty member **Alfred Merrill** was appointed to the Smithgall Institute Chair in Molecular and Cell Biology.

The Student Athletic Complex "pulled the plug" on its facilities, closing down the Aquatic Center to begin work on the three-year, \$45-million **SAC II** project.

**Arnold Stancell**, professor of chemical engineering, was named the first chair of Servant Leadership as part of President Clough's student leadership initiative.

**President Clough** was appointed by President George W. Bush to his Presidential Committee on Science and Technology, charged with issues such as energy efficiency, federal investment, and infrastructure.

Head football coach **George O'Leary** resigned from Tech after accepting a job offer from the University of Notre Dame. He would resign that position five days later amid allegations of inaccuracies on his resume. To replace the vacancy, Tech hired Chan Gailey as successor. He will be the school's 11th football coach.

A new measure to help boost freshman retention this year was the issuance of **mid-term grade reports** — noted as either satisfactory or unsatisfactory — as an early warning system designed to alert students to potential academic problems. Following the first such distribution, nearly 30 percent of students received at least one unsatisfactory mark.

Representatives of the Ford Motor Company attend a ceremony in honor of the company's \$10 million commitment to Tech's new **Environmental Science and Technology Building**, the largest corporate donation in school history. When completed in the fall of 2002, the 287,000-square-foot facility will be the largest academic building on campus.

The manual reporting of grades via "bubble sheets" became a thing of the past as **electronic grade submission** went online.

After leading Tech's Music Department for 19 years, Director **Bucky Johnson** retired.

An evaluation of this year's freshman class indicated a subtle shift in the profile of a "**typical Tech student**," as the school's non-engineering colleges acquired greater academic interest among incoming students. In particular, the College of Management, the College of Sciences and Ivan Allen College all saw substantial enrollment increases.

# IN BRIEF:

## Call for faculty committee nominations

Committees of the Faculty have an important responsibility for guiding many of Tech's activities. With committee elections approaching, the Nominating Committee is seeking interested candidates. Forward your nominations, including self-nominations, by February 1 to Gisele Welch, chair of the Nominating Committee, by e-mail (or campus mail, code 0834), indicating for which committee or committees the nominations are designated.

The Nominating Committee will assemble the ballot, and elections will be held during the spring semester. The Standing Committees of the General Faculty and of the Academic Senate are listed below. For a complete listing of current memberships, minutes of committees and further details of the election process, visit the faculty governance web site at [www.facultysenate.gatech.edu/](http://www.facultysenate.gatech.edu/). Contact committee chairs or other members to find out more about their activities.

- **Committees of the General Faculty**, open to all faculty members with general faculty or academic faculty status: Faculty Benefits Committee, Faculty Honors Committee, Faculty Status and Grievance Committee, Statutes Committee, Academic Services Committee, and Welfare and Security Committee.

- **Committees of the Academic Faculty**, open to all faculty members with academic appointments: Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Graduate Committee, Student Regulations Committee, Student Academic and Financial Affairs Committee, Student Activities Committee, Student Grievance and Appeal Committee, Student Honor Committee, and Student Computer Ownership Committee.

## Former campus ministry director dies

As director of the Wesley Foundation — the United Methodist Church's campus ministry — at Georgia Tech from 1962 to 1996, the Rev. Bill Landiss served as a minister, counselor and teacher, motivating more than 60 Tech students to enter a seminary.

Charles William Landiss Jr., 76, of Dunwoody died Wednesday at Portsbridge Hospice in Dunwoody. The body was cremated. A memorial service was held on Jan. 6 at Kingswood United Methodist Church in Dunwoody.

"Dad was not a judgmental, Bible-thumping kind of preacher," said his son, Bob Landiss. "He had an analytical mind and a fresh way of looking at things. He was very good at taking Bible stories and breaking them down to their essential components. He didn't get lost in the mythology; he was more about the message."

The Rev. Landiss earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy and music from Emory University, a master's degree from the Boston University School of Theology and a doctorate in theology from Harvard University.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to the Wesley Foundation at Georgia Tech/Landiss Lecture Series, 189 Fourth St. N.W., Atlanta, GA 30313

## Judges wanted

Centennial Place Elementary School will hold its annual Science and Math Fair on Wednesday, Jan. 30. In order to evaluate each student's project properly, the school is looking for judges who have a knowledge of the scientific method and age-appropriate developmental abilities. Judges arrive at 8 a.m. for orientation and refreshments, and each judge will be assigned a number of projects to evaluate. To participate, contact Centennial Place Elementary by phone at 404-853-4022 or by fax at 404-853-4089.



Kathryn Smith (left), a 22-year-old sophomore in the School of Psychology, returned to campus this fall after a three-year absence. Smith's autoimmune hepatitis caused multiple organ failure, several transplants and a prolonged rehabilitation. In addition to her work as an active member of LifeLink, a non-profit organ and tissue recovery organization, Smith said she intends to continue her psychology studies at Tech and one day hopes to attend medical school.