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# The WHISTLE

The Georgia Institute of Technology

Faculty/Staff Newspaper Volume 22, No. 28

August 10, 1998

## Johnson retires after state investigation

Three days following the issuance of a sharply critical report from the State Auditor, Dr. Norman Johnson retired as special assistant to the provost at Georgia Tech. His retirement ends a 10-year career at Tech, noted for successes in minority recruitment, the development of Centennial Place, and numerous controversies. Johnson also has stepped down as president of the Atlanta School Board but remains a board member.

Johnson's retirement ends a rather stormy period of his tenure at Georgia Tech, a period that began with a series of sharply critical stories by WSB-TV's Richard Belcher and the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. The stories resulted in a call by Gov. Zell Miller to investigate Johnson's expenditures at Georgia Tech and the Atlanta School Board. The Attorney General, Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI), Board of Regents, Georgia Tech and the Atlanta Public Schools all participated in the investigations.

The State Auditor released his report on July 28. Johnson submitted his letter of retirement on July 31. Johnson stepped down as School Board president August 5. The GBI criminal investigation into Johnson's expenditures continues.

Along with controversy, however, Johnson also is remembered for his accomplishments. He is credited by many as the driving force behind OMED and Georgia Tech's success in recruiting and graduating outstanding minority students. The July 23 issue of *Black Issues in Higher Education* ranks Georgia Tech first in the number of master's degrees in engineering awarded to minorities and second in minority engineering doctoral degrees.

Johnson also was instrumental in the redevelopment of Centennial Place, the re-creation of Centennial Place Elementary School, the construction of a new Butler Street YMCA next door to the school and Georgia Tech's close connection to Centennial Place Elementary.

## Tech 'impact' hits Georgia

Georgia Tech "impact" was made last week with the release of a newsletter carrying that very name: *Georgia Tech Impact*.

Published by the Economic Development Institute, the bimonthly newsletter has a two-fold mission: 1) tell key opinion leaders how Georgia Tech's multifaceted education, research and service programs are powering Georgia's economic development; and 2) tell potential users of Tech's economic development services about the availability of these services.

IMPACT  
Georgia Tech

"Georgia Tech didn't have a means for regularly communicating with the many groups who are interested in the broad picture of what Georgia Tech is doing for the state's economy," said John Toon, manager, Research News and Publications Office. The first issue was distributed last week to its target audience of Georgia business and industry leaders; statewide trade organizations; local chambers and elected city and county officials; legislators and Board of Regents; state economic developers; state and federal government officials; Tech faculty; the GIT Foundation; alumni living in Georgia; and the Georgia news media.

Considering the already overwhelming demands on its audience's time, the newsletter is formatted to provide vital messages about Tech in a concise and quickly digestible format. The newsletter—a single sheet printed front and back—will include eight brief items and one or two charts. The newsletter also will carry several one-paragraph "success stories." A map of the regional offices will be included in each issue as well.

See Impact, page 3



Photo by Gary Meek

Touch here for luck: An exhibit celebrating the Georgia Tech experience is on permanent display on the mezzanine level of the Alumni/Faculty House. The exhibit features three interactive displays: *Thresholds*—representing both the beginning of the Institute and the beginning of a student's Georgia Tech experience; *Discovery*—the learning experience and self-discovery; and *Spirit*—the traditions, legends and larger-than-life people that make Georgia Tech unique. Alumni Association ambassadors Elena Trebits, a junior in industrial engineering, and Andy Holden, a sophomore majoring in engineering, stand before *Thresholds*. Prompted by a sign that says "Touch me for luck," Trebits touches the original bronze plaque that names the members of the 1886 commission who determined in which city Georgia Tech would be located.



## Tech students design devices for physically disabled

Jackie Nemeth  
School of Electrical and Computer Engineering

"Hopefully, these experiences will motivate some students to learn more about rehabilitation engineering, and a few will consider career opportunities in the field of bioengineering."

Arthur Koblasz  
Professor,  
Electrical and Computer Engineering

A group of Georgia Tech engineering students have applied their skills to help make life easier for people with physical disabilities, designing devices for activities from dialing a telephone to playing pool. The students' efforts were featured at the Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation at the third annual Roosevelt Institute/Georgia Tech Rehabilitation Engineering Design Contest held this summer.

The competition featured a dozen projects that were conceived and designed by Georgia Tech students from the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) and the Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering (ME). The devices included a sip-and-puff TV remote control, a turn signal for visually impaired swimmers, a bowling ball ramp with electronic aimer and a voice-activated telephone dialer.

The People's Choice Award and the Georgia Engineering Foundation Award were given to two of the student teams. While visiting the Institute and talking with people undergoing medical rehabilitation, a team consisting of Robert Lewis, Brandon Morgan, H.B. Thomas and Dave Prichard found that some of the patients enjoyed fishing but had problems holding onto the pole. The students then decided to design a therapeutic fishing system that can be attached to a person's waist or arm, which gives more stability to the fishing pole. The device earned the group the People's Choice Award, which was voted on by the staff, patients and students at the Roosevelt Institute.

Michael P. Howard and Peter Chang won the Georgia Engineering Foundation Award for their development of a remote-controlled billiard cue, which allows people with limited hand movement the ability to play pool. Howard said the device was created with quadriplegics in mind. "When we were looking for ideas, a lot of people told us that they wanted

things to play pool with, so we tried to come up with something that would move around to help them hit anything on the table," he said. "They wanted something to stimulate their minds."

Arthur Koblasz and Raymond P. Vito, professors in electrical and computer engineering and mechanical engineering, respectively, supervised the students in the program. "For the past three years, we have been focusing on developing recreational devices in this design contest," Koblasz said. "The ME students have conceived some very clever mechanical devices, such as a golf cart seat for people with limited leg motion and a special lift for accessing a boat. Meanwhile, the ECE students love to use microcomputers and electrical circuits in their prototypes. One example of their work is creating computer games for people with high levels of quadriplegia.

"Our design students are usually very excited about the prospect of working on a class project that might actually help someone who is physically disabled," he continued. "Hopefully, these experiences will motivate some of these students to learn more about rehabilitation engineering and a few will consider the career opportunities in this field of bioengineering."

The Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation was founded in 1927 by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who also suffered from polio and found relief from hydrotherapy in the 80-degree waters at Warm Springs, Ga. One of the nation's oldest and most comprehensive facilities of its kind, the Roosevelt Institute provides comprehensive medical and vocational rehabilitation services for people with stroke, spinal cord injuries, brain injuries, post-polio, mental retardation and learning and other disabilities. The Roosevelt Institute, located on a 940-acre campus in Warm Springs about an hour south of Atlanta, has served more than 30,000 people with disabilities. For more information, contact Patricia Rogers, 706-655-5668.

Georgia  
Tech

The  
Whistle

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All phone numbers listed in The Whistle are in the 404 area code unless otherwise indicated.

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Georgia Tech is a unit of the University System of Georgia.



Full Name: Sandra Arthur

Age: 50

Occupation: Production and quality control supervisor, Computer Operations

Current projects and/or research: Processing Alexander-Tharpe gifts to the Alumni/Foundation database

Years at Tech: 30

Education: Business school in Atlanta

Marital Status: Single

Children: None, except four-legged ones

My favorite book is: The Bible.

One CD in my stereo is: The Nutcracker Suite.

If I were not working I would be: painting my roof.

What brought you to Georgia Tech? Chance.

One thing I would like to improve about Georgia Tech is: tolerance and consideration of others' feelings and ideas.

If I won the lottery I would: audit every course at UGA that interests me.

When I was younger I wanted to be: an astronaut.

My favorite spot in Georgia is: my farm.

If I could do it all over again, I would: get a degree in wildlife management.

## Spotlight Meet Sandra Arthur





## Did you know

### Parking update

Construction to make Cherry Street two lanes from First Drive to North Avenue has been bid and the contract awarded to Lusk & Associates, General Contractors. Work is scheduled to begin Aug. 10 and be completed by Aug. 21. Georgia Tech has hired the engineering firm J.L. Jordan & Co. to design the lower level parking lot revisions and design the service area revisions for Power Plant Drive. Construction for the parking lot project will be bid and completed first. This construction will continue through September and possibly October.

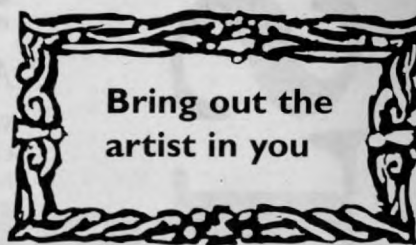
### Telecommuting policy

The new Telecommuting Policy and Procedures has been released by the Office of Human Resources. As part of the statewide effort to reduce ozone pollution, the policy is a product of Georgia Tech's telecommuting experiences during the Olympics and recent discussions between Human Resources and Tech's vice presidents, deans, chairs and department heads.

The program is an option for employees; it does not apply to all job classifications and positions. Each unit will determine which job classifications and positions are eligible for the telecommuting program and will submit the list to Human Resources. Once the list has been determined, eligible employees may ask their supervisor to be considered for the program. For more information, see your supervisor or contact Russ Cappello, director of Employment and Employee Relations, 894-9412.

### Rolling right along...

The \$400 million Campaign for Georgia Tech is moving into its public phase, and Georgia Tech clubs across the country will host a series of "roll-out" events. The Campaign will visit more than 30 cities in the next 18 months, with key representatives sharing the Campaign's message and a new Georgia Tech video. The kick-off roll-out will be held Aug. 18 in Savannah. For more information, call 894-0748 or 1-800-GTALUMS.



Bring out the  
artist in you

Faculty and staff are invited to share their artistic talents by submitting their art work for a fall quarter faculty/staff art show. The works will be displayed in the Hall of Success of the Bill Moore Student Success Center.

"I think there is talent on this campus that is never shared with the rest of the Tech community," said Robin Cabbage, program coordinator, Student Success Center. "I am sure that both students and faculty and staff would be interested in knowing about it."

The art work, to be displayed throughout football season, will be viewed by football game guests and thousands of prospective students and their parents. It also will provide prospective students with Tech-made scenery while waiting to attend the Admissions information sessions.

Works of all media may be submitted—including architectural drawings, paintings, needlepoint or sculptures—and they must be framed, unless the piece requires a cabinet for display. The deadline for submissions is Aug. 28. Please submit all art work to Robin Cabbage, 894-1953.



This section features faculty and staff members who recently appeared in print or on the air with major news media.

Assistant Professor **Amy Bruckman**, College of Computing, was featured in an *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* Q&A about her MOOSE Crossing project, an online community where 8- to 13-year-olds can learn object-oriented programming. She also was quoted in *The New York Times*.

GTRI Researcher **Lisa Sills** was interviewed on WSB-TV Channel 2 regarding the Georgia Courts Automation Project.

**Jim St. John**, School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, was interviewed by WXIA-TV Channel 11, discussing how mountains influence storms.

**Edward Thomas**, professor, School of Physics, was interviewed on CNN's *The World Today* and *CNN Saturday*, saying that the technique for building nuclear bombs is no secret and that we could face nuclear blackmail.

**Mike Cummins**, GCATT director, was interviewed by WAGA-TV Channel 5 about the satellite shutdown, saying that all equipment is man-made and humans can make mistakes.

**Larry Keating**, associate professor, College of Architecture, was quoted in a *Creative Loafing* article on redevelopment in East Lake Meadows. Keating said Section 8, a federal subsidy program that places people in privately owned housing, doesn't have the longevity of public housing and is more risky.

**Craig Wyvill**, director of Tech's Agricultural Technology Research Program, was quoted in an article in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* that

## On the Record



featured robots in the poultry industry. Wyvill said that existing robot systems are too expensive to purchase and maintain. **Gary McMurray**, senior researcher in the Agricultural Technology Research Program, was quoted in the same article saying that the program's goal was to develop a low-cost robot that could perform the job with the dexterity and speed of a person.

**Randall Guensler**, assistant professor, School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, was interviewed by WAGA-TV Channel 5 about Atlanta's air quality, saying that the brown smog in the air does damage to the lungs before you know it's there.

**Robert Nerem**, director, Institute for Bioengineering and Bioscience, was quoted in an article on the bio-age in *South Magazine*, saying that by the year 2020, about one-third of industry in the United States will be biology- or medicine-based and that work performed at universities must be translated into products and companies.

Artist-in-Residence **Clark Ashton** and his works were the subject of an *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* article that focused on the newest venue for viewing Ashton's works: the Web.

**Michael Rodgers**, director of the air quality laboratory, School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, was quoted in an *Atlanta Business Chronicle* article on Atlanta's continued growth. Rodgers said that in five years states and counties may be given regulatory powers, and that there is not enough water to support growth. **Michael Meyer**, director of the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, was quoted in the same article, saying that the metro areas will continue to expand, and because of the continuing concern surrounding fossil fuels, more alternative fuels will be developed.

### Impact, continued from page 1

The content of the newsletter will focus on Georgia Tech education, research and service programs having an impact on local, regional or statewide economic development. "Georgia Tech plays a key role in the state's economy. We want to let people know what Georgia Tech does, so we can provide services to the people who need them—and so our funding agencies will know the benefits they are gaining from their investment in Georgia Tech," said Toon.

In the first issue, the newsletter tells of the environmental work done by the Georgia Tech Research Institute and the City Planning Program, and a CEISMC program that gets school teachers and industrial compa-

nies together. The newsletter also features "Around the State," a recurring section of economic development news bytes.

"We are interested in knowing about economic development success stories from all over campus," Toon said. "The more we can quantify [the impact Tech has on the state], the stronger we'll be able to show that."

Suggestions regarding projects that may be suitable for inclusion in future issues should be directed to the editor, Lincoln Bates, 894-6091 or [lincoln.bates@edi.gatech.edu](mailto:lincoln.bates@edi.gatech.edu). The September/October issue will be published the first week of October.



# Campus EVENTS

## Courses/Workshops

### August 11

**Welcoming Diversity Workshop**, presented by the Atlanta Chapter of the National Coalition Building Institute. Students, faculty and staff have the opportunity to become certified diversity trainers for Georgia Tech. Free to students, faculty and staff; \$50 for non-Tech participants. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Robert Ferst Center for the Arts, Richard's Gallery. Contact: Stephanie Ray, 894-6367 or stephanie.ray@vpss.gatech.edu.

### Miscellaneous

Tickets for **Georgia Tech's 1998 football season**. Season ticket packages, \$135. Florida State tickets (Oct. 24) available only in season ticket package. After Sept. 1, tickets may be purchased through Ticketmaster, 249-6400. For information, call 888-TECH TIX.

### August 11-16

**1998 National Diving Championships**. More than 125 divers compete for 10 national titles. Outcome will determine placement on U.S. national teams to compete in international events including the World Cup, Pan American Trials and the Olympic Trials. Tickets are \$5-\$25 for the first two days, and \$10-\$50 for finals. They can be purchased at the Robert Ferst Center for the Arts. For more information or to purchase tickets by phone, call 894-9600.

### August 18

**Take-A-Prof To Lunch**. 11:05 a.m. - 12:45 p.m., Robert Ferst Center for the Arts. Cost: \$5 faculty/staff and student pair; \$7 others. Sponsor: Student Center Programs Board. RSVP by Aug. 12 at 894-2805.

### Aug. 20

**Atlanta Humane Society Fundraiser**, hit the target with water balloons. 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Student Center balcony/walkway. Cost: 3 for \$1. Sponsor: Student Center MOVE Committee. For more information, call 894-2805.

### Sept. 4

**Georgia Tech's 200th Commencement Ceremony**, Summer Quarter. 9 a.m., Alexander Memorial Coliseum. Speaker: Dr. Rao Tummala, Georgia Tech's 1998 Distinguished Professor. Contact: Meg Norris, 894-7613.

**Georgia Tech Kickoff Celebration**, Fox Theatre, Egyptian Ballroom. Event features a live band, pep rally and silent and live auctions. Proceeds benefit the Greater Atlanta Georgia Tech Clubs' Scholarship Fund and Georgia Tech Athletic Scholarships. Advance tickets \$20, must be reserved by Aug. 27. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$25. For more information or to RSVP, call 894-9275 or 1-800-GTALUMS.

### Sept. 10-12

**Leadership Georgia Tech**, training weekend for alumni club officers. Georgia Tech campus. For more information, call 894-0748 or 1-800-GT-ALUMS.

The Whistle is being published biweekly during the month of August. Look for your next issue Aug. 24!



## Classifieds

### APPLIANCES

Side-by-side refrigerator w/ice maker, water, \$100. Window a/c units: one large \$200, one small unit \$100. Contact MaLinda, 894-1786 or malinda.williams@isye.gatech.edu.

### AUTOMOBILES

1982 Lancia Zagata. 80K miles. Excellent mechanical, sound body, 2-door. Sunroof, soft rear bonnet. Asking \$3,000. Call Bruce, 876-5751.

1984 Saab, 4dr, 5 spd manual, A/C, cream color, 160K miles, new tires, one owner. \$1,500 OBO. Call 351-6415.

1984 Toyota Corolla, two-door. Auto transmission, A/C, AM/FM/tape, new timing belt. Call 770-442-8637 or e-mail fk7@prism.gatech.edu.

1985 Toyota Camry, VGC in and out, 115K miles, 4-door, 5-speed manual, AC, PS, PB, AM/FM, cruise. \$2,400. Contact 299-5259 or tom.graver@marc.gatech.edu.

1987 Toyota Celica GT hatchback. A/C, sunroof, 5 spd, AM/FM/cassette. 85K miles. Door has body damage but still works. New tires. \$1,800 OBO. 894-3247 (w); 894-3247 (h); or wayne.book@me.gatech.edu.

1992 Cavalier. Aqua, 5 speed, 2 door, AM/FM/CD, 142K miles. \$2,500 OBO. E-mail denise.carpenter@vpea.gatech.edu or call 894-2985.

1993 Lexus ES300. Gold/tan, leather, 6 CD changer, sunroof, all records, single owner, garage kept, 76K mi. \$16,000. Contact robert.toledano@oit.gatech.edu or 894-4143.

1994 Mazda 323 hatchback, automatic, red, A/C, AM/FM cassette, rear defog, auto seat belts, 115K miles. \$2,800. Call 894-8327 or e-mail gwen.satchel@ece.gatech.edu.

1994 Nissan Sentra. AM/FM, cassette, power steering/windows/locks, A/C, cruise, low mileage, dark green. \$7,995. Contact 894-6729 or denise@dakar.ns.gatech.edu.

1995 Camaro, teal blue, gray cloth, V6, auto, ps, pb, tilt, cruise, keyless remote entry, power locks, a/c, CD player, 34K miles, tinted windows, \$12,900/OBO. Contact Gary, 875-5743 or gary.hoiman@ce.gatech.edu.

### COMPUTERS

Computer 486DX66 tower, 3 slots, upgradeable to pentium, 80 MB hard drive 16 Ram memory, Windows 3.1 for workgroups, \$350. Monitor: color Phillips 14", \$200. Negotiable. Contact Pia, piavazelle.jerome@gtri.gatech.edu or 385-0184.

### FURNITURE

Large, carved wood-frame Mediterranean-style high-back couch w/ red print cushions: \$1,500 OBO. Light brown leather-like lazyboy: \$200 OBO. 5'x2' graphic print of runner: \$15. Call 240-0115, ask for Peter.

Queen-size BR suite (dresser, mirror, chest, headboard, mattress), \$400. 3 piece living room suite, \$250. Contact MaLinda, 894-1786 or malinda.williams@isye.gatech.edu.

### REAL ESTATE

2BR 1BA condo with washer/dryer, corner of Peachtree, 26th St. \$98,500. Contact 894-0284 or candy.carson@registrar.gatech.edu.

Two-story home, 4 BR, 2.5 BA, LR, FR w/ fireplace, large kitchen, huge master BR/BA, 2-car garage, patio, fenced backyard, garden area. Norcross area, close to 85 and 285. \$98,500. Call Kay Kim, 770-457-0570.

Fall quarter sublet in Virginia Highlands, 8/22-11/29. Private BR/BA in 2 BR apartment. Share kitchen, living room, balcony. All

amenities, A/C. \$475/mo + utilities. E-mail stephane.rebeck@stucen.gatech.edu.

For sale: 3 BR, 2 BA, brick ranch in Smyrna, near Vinings. New paint, carpet and vinyl, full unfinished basement, 2-car garage, screen porch, \$121,000. Call Harriett, 237-3151.

Wanted: Homestays, rooms to rent. If interested in having international student live w/ you while he/she studies English at Language Institute, contact Jackie Ramezani, 894-8756 or jackie.ramezani@conted.gatech.edu.

### SPORTS/FITNESS/RECREATION

Soloflex weight machine, like new. Includes weight straps, knee pads, bar sleeves. \$450. Contact Ty, 894-6207, 815-0207 or tyanna.herrington@lcc.gatech.edu.

Wanted: Outboard motor (35 hp or greater) to run 24-ft. pontoon boat. Contact 894-6274 or mindy.millardstafford@sac.gatech.edu.

Soloflex machine, like new, with all attachments. Paid more than \$1,200, will take \$600. Contact Julian Bell, 894-5264.

BMI home exercise machine, total body workout. Like new, delivery available. Paid \$275, asking \$150 OBO. Contact Bill, 894-3646 or william.robinson@gtri.gatech.edu.

### MISCELLANEOUS

Dog crate, 42" x 28" x 38", almost new. Original price, \$200; asking \$100. Girl's 3-speed bike, 26", almost new, \$65. Contact carol.jones@carnegie.gatech.edu.

Gas grill, 2 years old, \$60. Patio table w/ 3 chairs, \$50. Call Janice, 894-3880 or 770-471-5705.

Two framed Egyptian papyrus pictures, 3 Egyptian wall hangings. \$45 for all; individual prices negotiable. E-mail kathleen.richardson@inta.gatech.edu.

Four 12 1/2 oz. crystal drinking glasses, lilac base with clear sides. New, \$10. Fiesta-brand

china, lilac: dinner plate, \$5; serving bowl, \$4; 2 mugs, \$3 each; cereal bowl, \$2.50; 2 saucers, \$2 each. All new. Call Mary Beth, 894-5609.

Pure Flow air treatment system. Finished wood cabinet 18"x14"x34." Contact Bruce, bruce.lonnman@arch.gatech.edu or 876-5751.

Cinderella type wedding gown. White w/tulle bottom, halter neckline, beaded bodice, petite fit (5/6), slip included. Perfect for spring wedding or debutante ball. Worn once. Contact chelcea.harper@me.gatech.edu.

Bedliner for '94-'98 Sonoma or S-10 pickup. Make offer. Contact 675-1829 or rick.howell@ee.gatech.edu.

Wanted: Old Hardy Boys books. Prefer original versions with original, richer language. Contact Nick Perez, 894-1657 or nick.perez@gtrc.gatech.edu.

Tanning bed by Dr. Kern-Wolff System 20-minute bulbs. Paid \$1,700, will take \$850. Contact Julian Bell, 894-5264.

Lady's engagement ring. Size 5 1/2, 7 diamonds, 1/4 carat total weight, 14K gold; unique setting; appraised at \$500, asking \$300. Call Linda, 894-7587 or 572-7991.

Wanted: 3 1/2" disks for Mathematica, version 2.2. Don't need manuals. Contact Dan Fielder, 894-2951 or dfielder@ee.gatech.edu.

Pinball machine, full size Atari Superman. Great for play room. \$600 OBO. Can deliver. Call 770-439-8890.

Wanted: Nintendo 64. Contact cm132@prism.gatech.edu.

*Editor's note: Faculty and staff may submit ads via e-mail to denise.noble@vpea.gatech.edu or fax to Denise at 894-7214. Ads run for a maximum of three weeks, in the order in which they are received. Please notify Denise when items have been sold. For more information, call 894-8324.*