

Inside:

New TFE chair . . . . .Page 2

Library renovation . . . . .Page 3

In Brief . . . . .Page 3

Campus Events . . . . .Page 4



# THE WHISTLE

FACULTY/STAFF NEWSPAPER

VOLUME 27, NUMBER 21 • JUNE 17, 2002

THE GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

## Georgia Tech, SEDA to break ground on new Savannah campus

Larry Bowie  
Institute Communications  
and Public Affairs

Georgia Tech and the Savannah Economic Development Authority (SEDA) will break ground this week on a new academic and research campus to house the hub facilities for the Georgia Tech Regional Engineering Program (GTREP), which offers students in southeast Georgia the opportunity to earn an engineering degree from Georgia Tech without leaving the area.

The GTREP campus — to be situated on about 47 acres in SEDA's Crossroads Business Centers — is the centerpiece of a larger 150-acre development that will house research and development-oriented industries near the Savannah International Airport. The development is called the Technology and Engineering Campus, or "TEC."

Other operations slated to occupy the campus are the Georgia Tech Economic Development Institute (EDI), and the Savannah Advanced Technology Development Center (SATDC). Construction will begin this summer and is scheduled to be completed by fall 2003. SEDA hopes the Georgia Tech name will help attract research and development-oriented industries to TEC.

"We are proud to welcome Georgia Tech, one of the top three colleges of engineering in the country, as one of our first tenants to TEC," said Cliff McCurry, SEDA's board chairman. "Companies that locate in TEC can draw from the highly trained workforce and product development research capabilities that are available at GTREP, as well as the dynamic and culturally rich environment that Savannah has to offer."

GTREP began enrolling students in 1999 to meet the need for engineering education in southeast Georgia by allowing students to earn a Georgia Tech engineering degree without having to travel to the main campus in Atlanta. Currently, more than 300 students are enrolled in the program.

The program offers undergraduate degrees in civil engineering and computer engineering, as well as master's degrees in civil and environmental engineering; electrical and computer engineering; and mechanical engineering. Additional bachelor's degrees in electrical engineering and mechanical engineering are also planned.

During the freshman and sophomore years, GTREP students are principally taught by faculty from one of three institutions that partner with

*GTREP continued, page 3*

## Hispanic students fastest growing population at Tech

David Terraso  
Institute Communications  
and Public Affairs

The fastest growing population in the country is now the fastest growing student population at Georgia Tech. This fall, 39 percent more Hispanic students are expected to enroll at the Institute compared with last year. The gains are part of a concerted effort to make the campus more attractive to a wider range of students, said Deborah Smith, director of undergraduate admissions.

"Our society has become more global, and Georgia Tech is becoming more representative of what you see around the country. We want our students to be in an environment where they'll work with people who aren't necessarily like them. So when they get into the workplace, they'll know how to work with all kinds of people," Smith explained.

Unlike affirmative action — in which some schools have been accused of altering admission standards to increase diversity — Tech's effort is largely a marketing campaign designed to increase interest in the Institute among a wide variety of demographic groups.

"We make admissions decisions regardless of gender or race, but we



Hispanic students at Tech celebrate the end of the school year at a *Convivencia*. Over the past five years, the average SAT score for freshmen has increased steadily at the same time the Institute has focused on increasing diversity.

do try to make our school attractive to a variety of students when we're recruiting," said Smith.

### Outreach targets top students

The numbers bear that out. The average SAT score and grade point average for incoming Hispanic students is on par with that of the overall freshman class. In fact, said Barbara Hall, associate vice president of Enrollment Services, over the past five years the freshman class' average SAT score has risen steadily at

*Freshmen continued, page 2*

### Students visit EOEML



Students from Epstein School, visiting the Electro-Optics, Environment and Materials Laboratory, show off their slime.

In April, GTRI's Electro-Optics, Environment and Materials Laboratory played host to a class of 6th grade students from the Epstein School.

The demonstration by Leanne West and Jack Wood of GTRI featured lasers and optics. The students were able to observe a simulated sunset in a fish tank and participated in a discussion on polarization. The highlight of this presentation was the lighting of a match with one of the lasers.

With EOEML researchers John Stewart and Morris Hertzler, the students reviewed the electromagnetic spectrum. This presentation was wrapped up with a demonstration of the infrared (IR) camera. The students observed that objects with a high temperature appear bright in the camera. As a bonus, students had their pictures taken with the IR camera, then saved to a disk as a keepsake.

Fellow researchers Tony Wasilewski and Martin Tuck offered a demonstration involving visualization of the globe using satellite imagery and Geographic Information System (GIS) data.

With GTRI's David Gottfried, the students learned about chemical compounds. By mixing certain chemical compounds, the students produced slime.

“QUOTE—  
UNQUOTE”

“The story hasn’t been told. There have been very few black historians and sociologists of science and technology in the academy.”  
—*Willie Pearson, chair of the School of History, Technology and Society, on the deeds of lesser-known African-American inventors in American history. (Black Issues in Higher Education)*

“I think that by studying networks in culture, we can get an idea of the group activities that lead to what we call thoughts in animals.”  
—*Steven Potter, assistant professor of biomedical engineering, on his research which studies the language of thought by growing small networks of brain cells on top of silicon chips and in electrode-studded dishes, which could potentially treat mind-destroying diseases such as Alzheimer’s. (U.S. News and World Report)*

# School of Textile and Fiber Engineering names new chair

Larry Bowie  
Institute Communications  
and Public Affairs

The School of Textile and Fiber Engineering has selected the University of Southern Mississippi’s top academic officer to chair the school. Anselm C. Griffin, provost of Southern Mississippi, will begin serving as chair on July 1. Griffin replaces longtime chair Fred Cook, who served as chair for 14 years. Last year Cook announced his intention to step aside and return to full-time teaching. “I am very pleased that we were successful in attracting Dr. Griffin to Georgia Tech,” said Narl Davidson, interim dean of the College of Engineering. “He is an eminent polymer scientist and engineer and a respected administrator. I have every confidence he will lead the School of Textile and Fiber Engineering to new heights in its educational and research missions.”



Griffin, 55, has risen through the ranks at Southern Mississippi. He has served as a faculty member at the university since 1975, primarily in the areas of chemistry, biochemistry and polymer science. Griffin served as dean of the Southern Mississippi graduate school from 1997 until his appointment as

provost in January 2001. He is also the first holder of the university’s Bennett Distinguished Professorship in the Sciences. Griffin holds a doctorate in organic chemistry from the University of Texas-Austin. His research interests include liquid crystals, supramolecular polymers and polymer synthesis. From 1990-93 he took an extended leave to become the founding director of the Melville Laboratory for Polymer Synthesis at Cambridge University in the United Kingdom. “I am looking forward to becoming a part of the School of Textile and Fiber Engineering,” Griffin said. “Its long history at Georgia Tech, its strong ties with Georgia industry, and its excellent faculty position the School well for further growth and advancement. I feel honored to have been selected as chair and I look forward to the challenge of leading the School of Textile and Fiber Engineering to even greater national prominence.”

Freshmen, cont’d from page 1

the same time Georgia Tech has focused on increasing diversity. Climbing from 1296 in 1998 to 1335 in 2002, the SAT scores are one indicator that the quality of Tech students is improving year after year. Giselle Martin, assistant director of undergraduate admissions, was hired last November through funding from the Goizueta Foundation, a charity founded in 1992 by the late Coca-Cola CEO and chairman of the board of directors, Roberto C. Goizueta, to provide financial assistance to charitable and educational institutions. Martin’s mission is to increase awareness of Tech among Hispanic high school students and parents. “There’s a population out there that is growing, and we need to provide the public outreach to let them know that we, as a public institution, are interested,” Martin explained. Tech should be interested; Hispanics are the fastest growing population in the United States. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Hispanics made up just 9 percent of the population in 1990. In 2000, that number jumped to 12.5 percent. By the next census in 2010, Hispanics are expected to surpass African-Americans as the largest minority group in the country. In Georgia and the Atlanta area, the situation is much the same. Since 1990, Georgia’s Hispanic population has grown more than 400 percent. In the Atlanta metro area it’s grown 500 percent. Universities that don’t look to recruit Hispanics may find themselves missing out on a population that’s quickly becoming an economic and political powerhouse.


**Small, but growing**  
The number of Hispanic students enrolling this year at Georgia Tech, 74, is still small compared to border state schools such as Cal-Tech and the University of Texas. But Hall is pleased with the progress being made.

2002 Freshmen: quick facts

- Number of freshmen expected to enroll 2,230, from 1,025 high schools.
- Average high school grade-point average: 3.8 out of 4.0.
- Average SAT: 1335.
- Seven students made a perfect SAT score of 1600.
- Most popular majors:
  - Undecided
  - College of Engineering
  - Computer Science
  - Aerospace Engineering
- Freshmen come from 45 states and Puerto Rico. There are no freshmen from Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Wyoming.
- Most international students: India, South Korea, China, Canada, Taiwan.
- There are eight sets of twins.
- Percentage of freshmen who submitted their application via the web: 28
- There are 95 National Merit Finalists and 15 National Achievement Finalists.

“It’s a great start,” said Hall. “We’re focusing on making them aware of what Tech has to offer.” Tech is doing that in a number of ways. Martin has been busy this year traveling around the state and across the country to meet prospective students and their parents. She’s also been working with Hispanic alumni to get them involved in the recruiting process by sharing their experiences at Tech

with students who have been accepted. True to its name, the Institute is also using technology to reach high school students who are in the college selection game. Over the past year, the admissions office has set up internet chat rooms and phone-a-thons in which current students and alumni can chat with prospective Yellow Jackets about what campus is like and what they can expect if they choose Tech. Not limited to Hispanic students, the chat rooms have been used with various groups of potential students, although each chat is targeted to a different demographic. Tech has also added a virtual tour of the campus to its website to give students a preview of what they’d see if they come to visit. But the real key to making Tech attractive, Hall said, is to get them to make the trip. “We know that if we can get students to campus, then we have a much better chance of getting them to enroll.” Alexandra Almeyda said she hadn’t given Tech much thought at first, but after researching the university, she said to herself, “I know that’s where I’m supposed to be.” After visiting campus, the Miami high school senior said she knew her hunch had been dead-on. In addition to attracting Hispanic students, Tech has also seen modest gains among females and African-American students in the 2002 freshman class, continuing its quest to increase diversity. Last summer, Black Issues in Higher Education named Georgia Tech the number one producer of African-American engineers in the country.



**Georgia Tech**

THE WHISTLE

Editor: Michael Hagearty

Published by Institute Communications and Public Affairs.

Publication is weekly throughout the academic year and biweekly throughout the summer.

The Whistle can be accessed electronically through the Georgia Tech web page, or directly at [www.whistle.gatech.edu](http://www.whistle.gatech.edu).

E-mail Whistle submissions to [michael.hagearty@icpa.gatech.edu](mailto:michael.hagearty@icpa.gatech.edu), or fax to Michael at 404-894-7214 at least 10 days prior to desired publication date. For more information, call 404-894-8324.

Cost/\$675

Copies/5,200

Institute Communications and Public Affairs  
Wardlaw Center  
177 North Avenue  
Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0181

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

# Library ramps up renovation of West Commons

Sean Selman  
Institute Communications  
and Public Affairs

A \$1 million renovation under way in the Georgia Tech Library and Information Center's West Commons section will create a new "educational epicenter" for the Institute, one that infuses traditional academic pursuits with new technology and services.

"Overall we are renovating about 20,000 square feet," Dean Richard Meyer, director of the Library and Information Center, said. "For the most part this project will improve information services offered to students and create a test bed that will inform the development of our upcoming undergraduate learning center. It also is an innovative and experimental convergence of several key information services."

Renovations to the West Commons section began in March and should be complete by August.

The area will serve as a multimedia learning center and student workshop supporting 100 computers on a high-speed network. The area also will be sectioned off in order to comply with classroom and lab standards and will receive full audio

and video presentation capabilities.

Jim Consuegra, director of educational technology in the Office of Information Technology (OIT), said the project cost breaks down to \$400,000 for physical renovations, \$150,000 for new furnishings and \$450,000 for new technology.

In planning for the project, library staff collaborated with their OIT counterparts, "since both areas of the Institute want to combine the Library's traditional academic mission with the evolving technological needs of students and faculty," Consuegra said.

This combined support effort will provide technical, instructional and research support in one location. It will feature a central technical and library reference counter immediately adjacent to the commons area with three to five support staff. Roving, full-time staff and student assistants will be on the main floor to assist any students with their operational and application needs.

While the renovations should help library and OIT staff better adapt to the changing technology demands of students and instructors, Consuegra said they also will help campus planners develop new ways to enhance

undergraduate learning and student retention efforts.

"Georgia Tech will soon embark on the detailed design and construction of the Innovative Learning Resource Center (ILRC), which embodies Georgia Tech's commitment to the improvement of the overall undergraduate teaching and learning experience," said Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Affairs Bob McMath. "The success of this undergraduate learning center requires cultural changes that effectively merge leading-edge library, information technology and educational services. The West Commons project will not only benefit students, faculty and staff, but will result in valuable lessons and insights that will directly impact the design of the ILRC."

The 205,000-square-foot ILRC will house undergraduate student instruction programs and services plus student support services. Preliminary planning for the project began in spring 2001 with an anticipated completion date of 2006.

For more information...

West Commons Renovation  
www.library.gatech.edu/renovation

# IN BRIEF:

## Clough honored for body of work

At the annual awards ceremony last month, the American Association of Engineering Societies (AAES) honored President Wayne Clough with the National Engineering Award, AAES's highest honor. Clough was recognized for his outstanding contributions as a great educator, university administrator, and statesman for the engineering profession. Under his watch, Tech's expenditures, research funding, and enrollment have skyrocketed. Last year, Black Issues in Higher Education cited Tech as the first university to graduate the largest number of African-American engineers at the bachelor's, master's and doctorate levels.

The National Engineering Award was established in 1979 to honor engineers whose leadership and accomplishments benefit humanity. Past winners include Stephen Bechtel Jr., William Pickering, and Neil Armstrong.

## Georgia Tech Club under development

The Georgia Tech Club, a 600-acre golf course and residential community that would be home to the Yellow Jacket golf team, is being planned for development next fall.

The \$66 million residential community includes an 18-hole golf course and practice area, a tennis facility and a lifestyle center complete with spa and fitness facility.

"Any time you are satisfied or you're standing still in our world today, you're moving backward. We need this to continue to make our program a better program," said Athletics Director Dave Braine. "This is a situation that will not only help our golf program, but it will help the whole Georgia Tech community."

The Georgia Tech Club has initiated a drive for 100 founding members at \$60,000 each, and is sending out letters, promotional material and a video to alumni. Homes in the community, to be located in southeast Cherokee County, will start at about \$500,000.

"It will be exciting for Georgia Tech's golf team to have its own course," said Joe Irwin, vice president and executive director of the Alumni Association. "Georgia Tech is putting its name on a club that we can call our own. We think it's one of those unique opportunities that will benefit the school."

The Georgia Tech Club is a development of The University Clubs by Melrose, a wholly owned subsidiary of The Melrose Co., of Hilton Head Island, S.C., a privately held developer of prestige golf communities.

The Alumni Association and Athletic Association will receive 5 percent of membership sales and 10 percent of the gross operating revenue. This royalty fee is projected to generate more than \$1 million a year at sellout.

Golf course architect Rees Jones of Montclair, N.J., designed the golf course and practice area. Atlanta architect and Tech graduate Niles Bolton, president of Niles Bolton Associates, designed the country club and cottages. Former U.S. Open and Wimbledon champion Stan Smith designed the tennis facility, and Johnson and Johnson Health Care Systems is designer of the lifestyle center.

## Gone to the dogs

School of Industrial and Systems Engineering Professor Robert Foley and his dog Asa were on the Late Show with David Letterman recently during a segment in which Asa, a 3-year-old toy poodle, demonstrated her skills that had won the eastern regional small-dog agility competition of Purina Dog Chow's Incredible Dog Challenges. To view the clip, refer to [www.isye.gatech.edu/news/foley.php](http://www.isye.gatech.edu/news/foley.php).

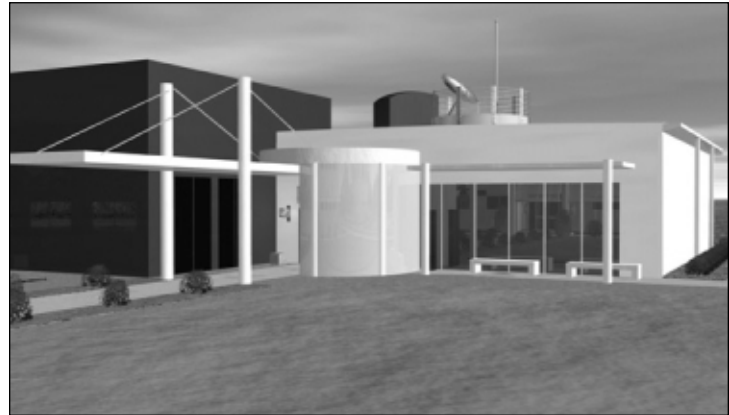
## GTREP, cont'd from page 1

Georgia Tech; Armstrong Atlantic State University and Savannah State University in Savannah; and Georgia Southern University in Statesboro. At the start of their junior year, these students matriculate to Georgia Tech, but remain at their home institution.

Junior- and senior-level classes are taught primarily by Georgia Tech faculty residing in southeast Georgia and supplemented by Tech faculty in Atlanta through distance learning connections.

Like their counterparts at Tech's main campus, GTREP students have the opportunity to work on research projects and have access to job placement and career planning, continuing education programs, cooperative education programs and industry training.

"In addition to the academic focus of GTREP, the program is an economic development initiative that has always been viewed as an opportunity to help existing industry in the Southeast and to attract new industry to the region," said David Frost, director of GTREP and a professor of civil engineering at Georgia Tech. "Companies are interested in the intellectual capital that a location can provide them, and



The Brookwood Group in Atlanta is overseeing the planning and design of the three buildings that will eventually house the GTREP campus.

in that context, GTREP plays an integral role in economic development in the region," he said.

TEC is the latest development spearheaded by SEDA, which provided the acreage for the campus to the University System of Georgia Board of Regents.

The first building on the GTREP campus, for which this groundbreaking is scheduled, will house state-of-the-art classroom and laboratory facilities for advanced computer and civil engineering instruction and research. The facility will include a structural components testing laboratory and a facility for digital tele-reconnaissance for support of ongoing research and education activities.

Due to the rapid growth of GTREP, Georgia Tech and SEDA

are preparing to lease space in two buildings scheduled to be developed adjacent to the first GTREP campus building. The University Financing Foundation (TUFF), a non-profit organization that helps universities obtain research and educational facilities and equipment, is assisting Georgia Tech and the University System of Georgia in leasing space within the buildings. Those buildings will house faculty, staff and graduate student offices, research labs and core administrative offices.

For more information...

Georgia Tech Regional  
Engineering Program  
www.gtrep.gatech.edu