Dirt Keeps Moving around Campus

Improvements Stretch from West to East Campus Edges

JESSICA ROSE

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

As a new year unfolds, construction equipment continues to roar around campus.

This semester, projects include infrastructure upgrades, new buildings, and a facility that is on the national radar for its net-positive energy use.

NEARLY COMPLETE

Tech Tower

The interior renovation of the Lettie Pate Whitehead Administration Building, better known as Tech Tower, is nearing completion. Occupants, including members of the Office of the Registrar, members of the College of Sciences, and members of the College of Engineering, will move back into the space during the spring.

The West Campus Dining Commons takes shape at the intersection of McMillan and Eighth Streets. The facility is scheduled to open this fall and will include several retail dining options, including Panera Bread.

IN PROGRESS

West Campus Dining Commons

This new eatery and academic space will include retail options and more than 300 dining seats. The structural steel has been erected, and the exterior envelope is being pulled together. The project is on schedule for a Fall 2017 completion.

Library, Formula, Maintenance Funding Top Legislative Priorities

LAURA MEANS

GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

As the state of Georgia’s 2017 legislative session begins this week, Georgia Tech’s Office of Government and Community Relations is set to promote Tech’s legislative priorities to Georgia’s state leaders.

“The multiyear renewal project of Price Gilbert Library and Crosland Tower continues to be the Institute’s top priority,” said Vice President for Government and Community Relations Dene Sheheane. “Securing the $47.4 million initial-phase construction funding for the comprehensive renewal project would enable us to vastly increase core campus space for students. Planning, design, and preconstruction for the project is underway as a result of previous years’ allocations.”

Sheheane and her colleagues will also work to strengthen partnerships for advanced manufacturing initiatives in Georgia among higher education institutions, government, and industry to position Georgia as a competitive leader for 21st century manufacturing.

Together with the University System of Georgia (USG), the Georgia Tech team will also work to secure important system-wide priorities:

- Secure $66.7 million in new Formula Funds for enrollment growth to be shared among all USG institutions.
- Funding supports critical day-to-day operations and is essential to maintaining academic quality.
- Secure $60 million in Major Repair and Rehabilitation Funds to repair aging facilities across the USG. Georgia Tech’s allocation will be directed toward important deferred maintenance needs.

During the legislative session, the Office of Government and Community Relations also engages external partners in sharing Tech’s story. Members of the Capitol Jackets advocacy network, which includes alumni and partners on campus, receive a biweekly newsletter with updates from the state Capitol.

On Wednesday, Feb. 1, the Georgia Tech community along with the USG’s other research institutions will convene at the state Capitol to share appreciation for the ongoing support from state lawmakers and showcase some of the great research and initiatives happening at Georgia Tech.

Each session, Georgia Tech students have the opportunity to serve as full-time interns to legislators, legislative committees, or legislative staffers through the Georgia Tech Student Day at the Capitol.

Be Well Series Returns for 2017

BETHANY SCHUSTER

HUMAN RESOURCES

Celebrating half a decade of benefits and wellness education, Georgia Tech Human Resources’ (GTHR) Be Well benefits education and wellness series is back, beginning Jan. 12.

Be Well workshops are free, health, wellness, and benefits education classes open to all Institute employees. Offered year-round, they are designed to give employees tools to make smarter, healthier, and more informed decisions for their personal and professional lives.

The 2017 calendar brings back popular classes from last year, such as Powers of Attorney and Healthy Cooking, and adds new courses on topics including career planning, care for aging parents, and deskercise (desk exercises).

“Each year, we strive to improve previous Be Well workshops and add more courses based on feedback from past participants,” said GTHR’s Work-Life Specialist Candice Bovian. “I’m excited about 2017’s lineup — we’ve added more than 15 new workshops and included more webinars, which makes this year’s calendar very robust, offering something for everyone.”

All classes are taught by trained professionals in convenient locations around campus. Most workshops require advance registration. See Page 4 or visit ohr.gatech.edu/bewell for a complete listing of courses and registration information.

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Nominations Open for Annual Awards

Each year, outstanding members of the campus community are honored through Institute awards, presented at the annual Faculty/Staff Honors Luncheon in April. Learn more and submit a nomination at o.gatech.edu/fsawards

Break Camp Registration Opens This Week

The Campus Recreation Center’s Tech Wreck Day Camps offer weekly day camp opportunities for children of Tech employees and students. Learn more and register for a Summer 2017 session at o.gatech.edu/breakcamp2017
New Budget System Coming

RACHEL POCKLINGTON
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

To assist the Institute in more effectively managing its $1.6 billion budget, the Office of Institute Budget Planning and Administration will deploy a new budgeting application this spring with improved data entry and reporting capabilities — just in time for fiscal year 2018 planning.

“The Internet Budget Solution was really state-of-the-art when it was created back in 2002,” said Jim Kirk, assistant vice president, Institute Budget Planning and Administration. “But the Institute has outgrown its former solution, and the time has come to upgrade to a new system that can scale to meet the evolving budgeting needs of the individual departments, as well as the Institute.”

The new budget solution, oneBudget, has been in development since 2015. According to Kirk, the complexities of Tech’s budget and the varying needs among the Tech budget community required a thoughtful and thorough review of the current system, including user needs, to develop a resilient budgeting system for the Institute. Given the scope of Tech’s budgeting needs and the Board of Regents’ reporting requirements, the decision was made to develop a solution internally that would allocate all critical budgeting decisions, provide a better user experience, and integrate with other information systems, including the Institute’s anticipated resource planning system upgrade.

The new budget application more efficiently addresses the accounting and recording complexities associated with Georgia Tech’s 11 budget sources, which range from tuition, to state appropriations, to grants and contracts. The system also gives both high-level and detailed visibility to funding information related to the $6,000 active projects on campus — most of which receive funding from multiple sources. And, like the projects, many of Tech’s faculty and research employees are also paid by shared funding allocations, meaning one salary can be funded by multiple sources. With the new oneBudget system, budget managers can more easily enter, track, and analyze funding allocations on a person-to-person and project-to-project basis.

Other improvements the new system provides include balancing the decentralized nature of Tech’s budgeting input process with the centralized management of the Institute’s and Board of Regents’ reporting process. In addition, the new system provides an improved user interface, more robust and comprehensive reporting capabilities, and integrated forecasting abilities to help budget planners better understand how shifts in funding and allocations could impact their operations.

“How people use the budgeting system, both in terms of input and output, is a critical component to designing the next generation budgeting solution for the Tech community,” said Kirk. “To be effective in how the Institute manages its budget, we need to give people in the departments across campus the tools and capabilities they need to understand their funding and expenditures, and make informed business decisions.”

Currently, a campus user group is testing the oneBudget application and providing valuable feedback. The goal is to fully launch the new budget application in March 2017 to coincide with the start of the 2018 budget preparation schedule. Training sessions will be offered beginning January 2017. For more information, contact budget@business.gatech.edu or your budget analyst.

Staff Member’s Retirement Leads to Student Scholarship

ANNE STANFORD
INDUSTRIAL AND SYSTEMS ENGINEERING

For more than a quarter of a century, Barbara Christopher has worked in communications roles across the Georgia Tech campus. Most recently, she served as the communications manager for the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial & Systems Engineering (ISyE), a position she held for nine years until her retirement at the end of 2016.

There was no retirement celebration honoring Christopher and her many contributions to the School. When the offer was made for such a celebration, Christopher requested instead that the funds be directed to support a promising ISyE undergraduate student in need of financial assistance. ISyE doubled the funds for the establishment of the Christopher Scholarship, which is providing critical resources for Donte Preston, a junior hailing from Dallas, Texas.

“This is a perfect way to retire,” Christopher said. “My family struggled financially, and I wanted to help someone who faced similar circumstances. I can’t think of a nicer way to celebrate my tenure at Georgia Tech." Preston took a break from studying for exams to meet with Christopher before the end of the fall semester. He explained that he had always planned to stay in Texas for college — until he visited Georgia Tech.

“I loved it from the moment I stepped on campus," Preston said. While it was a tough decision to attend an out-of-state university, he was “convinced that my investment in my education would be returned in the future,” and he has since set out to be the best industrial engineer he can be. Beyond studying and his involvement with organizations such as the Georgia Tech Society of Black Engineers and the Student Alumni Association, Preston likes to spend his free time reading. He also shared with Christopher that if he were a superhero he would be Batman, because he doesn’t have superpowers and must rely on his brain to help other people.

Describing how he felt when he learned he had been chosen as the recipient of the Christopher Scholarship, Preston said, “I was not expecting it at all. Receiving the scholarship was the assurance I needed. I can’t express how grateful I am.”
Van Leer Interdisciplinary Design Commons

Construction is active on the renovation of the rotunda at the south side of the Van Leer building. The completed three-story facility will house a 13,000-square-foot makerspace with advanced fabrication tools and electronic technologies. The space will support research and hands-on learning, and will offer a dedicated project-based lab area for undergraduate courses that cover subjects such as embedded systems, analog devices, and communications, as well as senior design projects. The project is on schedule to meet material completion in December, with the aim of opening for occupants by February 2018.

Atlantic Drive

The last phase has begun on the replacement of underground steam lines and hardscape improvements along the entirety of Atlantic Drive. When the project is complete in Fall 2017, there will be a new pedestrian corridor from 10th Street all the way to Tech Green.

Construction fencing will soon be moved further north and initial hardscape upgrades include brick pavers, granite curbing, and bike racks.

Creating the Next Accessible Capability

James Logan, quality assurance manager for Enterprise Information Systems in the Office of Information Technology, is helping to create the next accessible electronic and information technology. “When Georgia Tech deploys accessible electronic and information technology, it makes it easier for people of all abilities. This makes business sense and strengthens Tech’s image in the eyes of existing and future students,” says Logan. For more about how Tech is “creating the next,” visit gatech.edu/creating-next.

Legislative, from page 1

Legislative Internship Program, offered in collaboration with colleagues and universities throughout Georgia and the Georgia General Assembly. This year, Georgia Tech has several interns at the state Capitol serving in various capacities.

To learn more about these events and programs, and to sign up for email newsletter updates about Georgia Tech’s community, state, and federal relations efforts, visit gov.gatech.edu.

Wrigley Begins Tenure as USG Chancellor

LAURA MEANS GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

This month marks the beginning of Chancellor Steve Wrigley’s tenure of service leading the University System of Georgia (USG). Wrigley has served as interim chancellor since August 2016 when former Chancellor Hank Huckaby announced his retirement, effective Dec. 31, 2016.

Wrigley has served as executive vice chancellor for administration for the USG for the past five and a half years. Prior to that, he served as senior vice president for external relations at the University of Georgia. Wrigley also served five years as chief of staff for Georgia Governor Zell Miller.

At the Biennial Institute for Georgia Legislators in Athens in December, Wrigley set forth several of his priorities as the System’s new chancellor, which include boosting graduation rates and containing college costs. The USG is utilizing several strategies to help reduce college costs, including a program to provide free digital textbooks for a number of courses. Other cost-saving initiatives include providing more online courses and consolidating colleges.

One of the ways Georgia Tech seeks to reduce the cost of education is through the G. Wayne Clough Georgia Tech Promise Scholarship Program, which provides debt-free education to all qualified Georgia residents whose family income is below 150 percent of the federal poverty level (~$35,000). To date, 475 Tech Promise students from around the state have graduated from Georgia Tech debt-free.

“We at Georgia Tech embrace Chancellor Wrigley’s initiatives of boosting graduation rates and reducing college costs,” said Georgia Tech President G.P. “Bud” Peterson, “and we look forward to continuing to partner with Chancellor Wrigley in service to the University System and our state.”

Events

MLK CELEBRATION

Jan. 11

Guest speaker Bakari Sellers, CNN political analyst, lawyer, and activist, will discuss setting the agenda for the next Civil Rights Movement at the 2017 MLK Lecture. The lecture takes place from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom.

c.gatech.edu/mlk2017

Jan. 12

The MLK Campuswide Student Celebration will feature student speeches, cultural performances, and a candlelighting ceremony for student organizations. Reception to follow. The event takes place at 7 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom.

c.gatech.edu/mlk2017

Jan. 13

The Focus Program, one of the nation’s premier programs for raising awareness of graduate education, hosts underrepresented minority students to encourage them to pursue graduate degrees at Tech.

c.gatech.edu/mlk2017

Jan. 14

The MLK Sunday Supper brings the Tech community together to discuss MLK celebration events, Dr. King’s legacy, and setting the agenda for the next civil rights movement. The event takes place from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Bill Moore Student Success Center. Register at engage.gatech.edu.

Jan. 19

The MLK Sunday Supper brings the Tech community together to discuss MLK celebration events, Dr. King’s legacy, and setting the agenda for the next civil rights movement. The event takes place from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Bill Moore Student Success Center. Register at engage.gatech.edu.

c.gatech.edu/mlk2017

Jan. 25

What’s Going On, an original musical production written by Tech student Danielle Mathis, depicts college life with a focus on social justice issues. The free event takes place at 7:30 p.m. at the Ferst Center for the Arts.

c.gatech.edu/mlk2017

For a more comprehensive listing of events, or to add your own, visit calendar.gatech.edu.
With the campus having already experienced its first winter weather event of the year, it’s time to reacquaint with the terms and procedures that may be used during an incident. Weather or other emergency situations may make it necessary for Georgia Tech to declare either “classes canceled” or “campus closed.” Other declarations may include “classes canceled until [time]” or “classes canceled, but staff report to work.” The specific type of declaration that is made will determine which employees are required to come to work.

**TERMS**

**Classes Canceled**

With a “classes canceled” declaration, all classes and instructional laboratories are affected; students and instructional faculty are not required to report to campus. Administrative and research activities not directly tied to the instructional function will generally continue as normal, unless otherwise instructed by a supervisor. Other support employees may also be instructed not to report to work at the discretion of the administrator responsible for each major division.

**Campus Closed**

With a “campus closed” declaration, no employees are to report to work, except those previously designated as “emergency essential” by their department, or otherwise instructed by a supervisor.