The Library recently hosted a town hall to share updates with the campus community on progress and details of programming and design inside the space. Representatives from the design teams as well as Library staff provided updates and answered audience questions. A live-stream of the presentation is archived at c.gatech.edu/librarytownhall.

The Library also recently took drone footage of the area in its current state. See aerial views of the construction at: c.gatech.edu/librarydrone.

Linda Daniels, architect in Capital Planning and Space Management, opened the presentation with a historical look at libraries at Georgia Tech. Georgia Tech's first library was a collection of books on a professor's shelf in Tech Tower. Early drawings of Tech Tower call the library area a "drawing studio," as that was its main purpose prior to housing books.

The Carnegie Building was Tech's first library building, built in 1907. It was replaced by Price Gilbert in the 1960s and Crosland Tower in 1968.

When planning for a replacement for the Carnegie Library, which had outgrown its capacity by the 1940s,
Pharmacy Manager Administers More than Medication

CHRISTINE KAPURCH
HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Behind the scenes at the Stamps Health Services Pharmacy is Nina Thoman, pharmacy manager. Thoman has been at Georgia Tech for five years. She came to the Institute after realizing her career at Kmart and Publix. Thoman recently shared a little about herself and why she loves working at Tech.

Where did you attend school?
I received my Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Mercer University College of Pharmacy in 2001. I thoroughly enjoyed my previous 12 years as a Publix pharmacist, but I have realized since coming to Stamps Health Services that patient education is one of the most important aspects of my job. I particularly enjoy working with this particular age group of patients, as it is an education-focused experience involving both their medications as well as personal responsibility. In the college health care setting, I am able to see the patients evolve from the time their parents drop them off to the time they graduate!

How have you seen Stamps Health Services evolve since you started?
The pharmacy has evolved quite significantly since I came here in 2012. The pharmacy now processes more than 1,000 insurance plans and administers vaccines. Initiating insurance billing was rather time-consuming, but it has been very well received by students, parents, staff, and faculty. Our pharmacists are all certified immunizers, thus allowing us to vaccinate staff and faculty on campus as well. I think it is of utmost importance as health care evolves for all health care professionals to use the opportunities provided to us to legally provide superior patient care.

What have you learned from the people you work with?
Working here has been a wonderful experience. I have learned how to educate our patient population in a positive manner in order to encourage them to be more responsible for their medical care.

With flu season here, what common misconceptions about the flu shot would you like to debunk?
The flu shot we administer at Stamps Health Services is an inactivated — or dead — vaccine, which means it is unable to cause the flu illness.

What do you like to do when you are not at work?
I enjoy relaxing on my porch swing, which I built two summers ago.

RUNNELS

Biochemistry. Under the guidance of William’s graduate student Nicholas Kovacs, lab manager Jessica Bowman, and others in the lab, he is studying the origins of protein folding.

“Calvin is considered by my lab members and me to be among the brightest and most promising undergraduate students in our program,” Williams stated in his Rhodes Scholar recommendation letter for Runnels. “He ranks in my view alongside a young John Rinn. John began his research career in my lab and is now a highly successful member of the University of Colorado faculty. Calvin, like John, is bound to do great things.”

Runnels’ research investigates the primitive protein and RNA folding structures fossilized in the ribosome, which may provide insight into the origins of life.

“The really cool thing about our research is that in the Williams lab, we think that the secrets of the origins of life are encoded in everyone’s cells,” Runnels said. “Every organism that exists has a little fossil record of the history of the molecules that are most important to life on Earth. That fossil record is called the ribosome, which is a little machine in your cells that makes protein.”

Runnels said the ribosome evolves similarly to the way a tree grows. “If you cut down a tree, you can see [in the rings] the history of when that tree was a lot smaller and younger. You can peel away the layers and trace the history to the way it looked at the very beginning,” he explained. “The ribosome is very similar in that the core of the ribosome is evolutionarily the most ancient part, and as it evolved over time new little pieces of protein and pieces of RNA accreted onto its surface, and it grew up into the modern ribosome.”

Runnels studies the core protein and RNA molecules in the ribosome and what their interactions tell us about the very earliest interactions of biopolymers on Earth.

Choosing Georgia Tech
Like many new Tech students, Runnels started as an undecided engineering major. “I mostly came to Georgia Tech because I liked the way it felt. When I was here on my scholarship weekend, I felt very welcome. I felt like people really liked it here. So, I came here on a feeling, more than on what I wanted to study,” he said.

In high school, he enjoyed chemistry and he was good at it, but he didn’t see himself being a scientist or chemist because his experience at working in labs had been less than positive. One of the first things Runnels did as a first-year student was to go on a Tech Trek to Banff National Park in Alberta, Canada, with his cohort of Stamps President’s Scholars. He met his research professor Loren Williams on that trip, and he was inspired and fascinated by their conversation.

“That sums up my relationship with science and learning in general,” he said. “I think it’s all about what can inspire you and what can motivate you to dive into a topic that you didn’t know anything about. Many of my favorite scientists didn’t study just one thing.”

At Tech, Runnels has been equally accomplished outside the research lab. He served as representative for the School of Chemistry and Biochemistry in the undergraduate Student Government Association (SGA), as well as co-chair of SGA’s Cultural and Diversity Affairs Committee. He is a linear algebra teaching assistant, Beckman Coulter Undergraduate Research Scholar, Stamps President’s Scholar (Randolph Whitfield Scholarship), member of the Honors Program, Georgia Tech Student Ambassador, Diversity and Inclusion Fellow, member of the Omicron Delta Kappa honor society, recipient of the Georgia Tech Campus Life and Community Scholarship, and was a semifinalist for Mr. Georgia Tech this year. He is a transgender male, and served as the student co-chair of the campus LGBTQA Action Team.

Runnels said being named a Rhodes Scholar is a tremendous honor and came as a shock. He said he is trying to keep its meaning in perspective.

This story has been edited for length. Read the full version at c.gatech.edu/runnels.
it was proposed to demolish Tech Tower and put a new library on its site. That plan was ultimately revised, but the site was still chosen to make the library central, easily accessible, and able to expand.

Brian Tanner of Praxis 3, the Atlanta-based part of the architecture team, gave an overview of building design and features. Overall, the interior design is driven by the need to host people instead of books.

Tanner noted that some of the most visible change will happen at the existing ground level, which will now have a grove on the side facing Fourth Street. The goal in that area is to create more connection between the two Library buildings. The first and second levels will resemble their existing state in that the large reading room with overlooking balconies will remain. The third floor will house more digital space and labs for audio, video, computing, and visualization. The fourth floor, and highest floor in the Price Gilbert building, will also keep its balconies overlooking the main reading room. The fifth floor will host most of the faculty and staff space in the building.

As is the case now, the Library is designed to get quieter as floors ascend. The sixth floor will have an emphasis on graduate students.

“Clough Commons is primarily an undergraduate-based facility connected to the Library complex,” Tanner said. “This floor is more oriented toward graduate students. It’s something the Library has really wanted to deliver.”

The seventh floor will offer skyline views from the north side, a reading room, meeting space, and roof terraces on either end. Spaces on this floor will mainly be dedicated to reading and quiet study, but can also be used for special events.

Catherine Murray-Rust, vice provost for learning excellence and dean of Libraries, emphasized the need to preserve quiet space in the facility.

“there’s a real need for people to work alone, together — to be engaged in academics, in a room full of people who are doing similar things, but to have the opportunity for quiet,” she said.

Exteriors

The area beneath the bridge connecting the two Library structures will be opened up to ease congestion. The main entrance of the complex will move to the Fourth Street side near the Hinman Research Building. The rotunda at the existing main entrance will be removed to harken back to the original architecture of the building.

A space on the east side of the new main entrance is called the “screened porch.” Tanner likened it to the exterior space at Dancing Goats at Ponce City Market, a coffee shop that features an outdoor seating area with partial glass enclosure.

Both the north and south facades of the Tower will be opened up with glass, but because the south facade of the building is exposed to more harmful rays of sun, the design incorporates sun shades that protect the exterior and reflect daylight into the space.

Interiors

A new set of stairs will take visitors from the entrance at ground level to the existing plaza level. The design evokes the riter stairs that ascend from the first to second floor of Clough Commons. Though many of the Library’s books have already been transported to the Library Service Center, the collection remaining will now be housed on shelves that will be turned 90 degrees from the way they currently face, showcasing the books and providing easier access.

A space on the second floor will offer a conference center space for events that are scholarship-based but not necessarily tied to a specific discipline, such as lectures, seminars, poster displays, or dissertation defenses.

“The space is intended to celebrate academics and provide something we don’t think is available elsewhere on campus without charging rent,” Murray-Rust said. The space will be equipped with audiovisual and livestreaming equipment and integrated into existing Library resources to provide archiving.

Seating capacity in the entire complex will increase with an existing 1,250 to 2,360.

“We’re nearly doubling the number of people that can use the library, at the same time reducing the energy use by 60 percent,” said Tanner. “It’s a pretty remarkable story for energy efficiency.”

The new Library will also have two instructional spaces available for campus use, as well as additional elevators, exit stairs on each end, inclusive restrooms, and a locker room with shower.

Timeline

Phase one of construction is underway, which is expected to conclude in fall 2018. At that point, the Tower portion of the Library will reopen, and the Price Gilbert building will close for construction through early 2020. The hope is to use the winter break of 2018 to reoccupy the Tower and close Price Gilbert. Given that Price Gilbert provides connectivity for campus between Clough Commons and the Library complex, the second phase of construction will likely cause more inconvenience to campus. The main construction entrance is anticipated to remain on Fourth Street to minimize that part of the impact to the campus community.

Learn more about the full scope of the project at librarynext.gatech.edu.
FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Maryam Alavi, dean of the Scheller College of Business (left), and Jennifer Bonnett, director of the Advanced Technology Development Center, were honored by Women in Technology this month with 2017 Women of the Year awards. Alavi was honored in the medium/mid-size organization and education institution category, and Bonnett was honored in the nonprofit organization category. Women In Technology’s mission is to serve as an advocate for women of all ages in Georgia’s science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) community.

OUTSTANDING WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY

Brenden Brown, research professor at the University of Houston and best-selling author, speaks at the closing ceremony of the First Inclusive Leaders Academy on Oct. 24 at the Ferst Center for the Arts.

Creating Culture Champions
87 Staff Members Complete Inclusive Leaders Academy

Creating a culture of inclusive excellence requires the proactive, intentional, and focused efforts of leaders. After engaging in up to 24 hours of study and practice through the Inclusive Leaders Academy, 87 staff leaders emerged and were celebrated as “Culture Champions” during the program’s closing ceremony on Oct. 24.

Nearly 400 attendees came to the closing ceremony to recognize the graduating class and hear keynote speaker Brene Brown discuss the essence of “Daring Greatness.” Brown, research professor at the University of Houston, founder and CEO of Brave Leaders Inc, and author of four No. 1 New York Times best-sellers, offered these insights to the first class: “Ask yourself, ‘Do I choose comfort or courage?’ Courage is a prerequisite for leadership and culture change, but leadership is hard, uncomfortable, and ultimately to serve others, not ourselves. To be an inclusive leader, you need to be willing to be uncomfortable because you are choosing to enter the arena,’ a place where showing up and being brave requires us to face uncertainty and risk emotional exposure.”

Institute Diversity launched the Inclusive Leaders Academy this year as a pilot professional leadership and legacy development program for managers at Georgia Tech. Nominations for the next cohort will open on Nov. 30, and the program will begin in February 2018.

The curriculum blends neuroscience and social science in ways that heighten spark insights and in turn guide personal transformation. In addition to the online, self-guided modules from the NeuroLeadership Institute on unconscious bias and from Brave Leaders Inc, which is based on the research of Brown, 60 course sessions were offered through the Inclusive Leaders Academy this year, including 26 wisdom labs, four co-active leader coaching sessions. I particularly enjoyed collaborating with other participants during the wisdom labs to learn how they applied the curriculum.

Based on initial feedback, 100 percent of the participants would recommend the breaking bias content from the curriculum.

“The Inclusive Leaders Academy was life-changing for me as it opened my eyes to being more open,” said Tina Clonts, director of administration and finance for Institute Budget Planning and Administration. “From this program, I learned about being engaged, present, and vulnerable.

For more information, visit sdie.gatech.edu/inclusiveleadersacademy.

real estate/rooms

For Rent: 1BR/1BA condo in Buckhead, near Peachtree and Pharr Road, W. Atlanta to Krogker/Trader Joe’s, restaurants, shops, 362-218-7682. $850/mo. Includes water, trash, dedicated parking. Contact jo.dgil49@gmail.com.

Looking for young working professional, graduate student, or visiting professor to rent furnished, private bedroom in East Midtown adjacent to Piedmont Park. Available Nov. 1 – Jan. 1. $850/mo. Includes utilities and internet. Walking distance to MARTA, Tech Square, restaurants, entertainment, shopping. Contact 312-218-7682.

3BR/3.5BA furnished townhouse for rent in West Buckhead, 1 mile away from Emory University’s Winship Cancer Institute. $2,000/mo. Contact 404-421-6922, bingwangatl@gmail.com.

Young, working graduate student seeking living accommodations as a roommate in Buckhead, Midtown, or Downtown location, close to public transportation. I am responsible, considerate, respectful of space, and have excellent study habits. 404-406-2683.

For Rent: 2BR/2BA furnished house. Fully furnished house in private community. Sun porch, enclosed patio. Located near GTR–Cobb County. Close to food markets, restaurants, entertainment, shopping, public transit. Referrals on request. $1,800/mo. Includes utilities, cable, internet, parking. Contact 404-514-7682, reba.dian@gmail.com.

For Rent: 1BR/1BA condo in Buckhead, near Peachtree and Pharr Road, W. Atlanta to Krogker/Trader Joe’s, restaurants, shops, 362-218-7682. $850/mo. Includes water, trash, dedicated parking. Contact jo.dgil49@gmail.com.

MISSCELLANEOUS

For Sale: 2010 Lincoln MKZ. Silver w/ leather interior; 93k miles; remote start and driver control, AC works inside and out. Well maintained. Includes both keys, brand new spare tire. Lots of upgrades. $9,500. Call 706-878-4730.

Vehicles

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