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 500 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 for the annual Georgia Tech Student Day at the 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’s allocation will be directed toward important deferred maintenance needs.

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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 accommodate these intricate budgeting variables, 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 reporting complexities associated with Georgia Tech’s 11 budgetary 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 process with the centralized management of the Institute’s and Board of Regents’ reporting processes. In addition, the new system provides an improved user interface, more robust and comparative 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.
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 highway 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 furthest from Tech Green, and the road is expected to be open by mid-October. The last phase is scheduled to be complete by the end of the year.

Creating the Next Accessible Capability

Van Leer and Tech Green are scheduled to open in December 2017, featuring a new makerspace and a 15,000-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.

Legislative, from page 1

Legislative Internship Program, offered in collaboration with colleges 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 (~$33,000). 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.”

Evens

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. 12–13

The Focus Program, one of the nation’s premier programs for raising awareness of graduate education, hosts understudied minority students to encourage them to pursue graduate degrees at Tech. c.gatech.edu/mlk2017

Jan. 14

ArtsNext hosts the Alonzo King Lines Ballet at 8 p.m. at the Fertel Center for the Arts. c.gatech.edu/mlk2017

Jan. 16

Campus is closed in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Tech will host a campuswide day of service from approximately 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., as well as an opportunity to attend a commemorative service at Ebenezer Baptist Church at 10:30 a.m. Register at engage.gatech.edu

Jan. 19

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. 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 Fertel Center for the Arts. c.gatech.edu/mlk2017

For a more comprehensive listing of events, or to add your own, visit calendar.gatech.edu.
PREPARING FOR HAZARDOUS WEATHER

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 usual, 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.

**GETTING INFORMATION**

In the event of a closed campus or canceled/ delayed classes, an alert will be sent via the Georgia Tech Emergency Notification System (GETNS). Updates will also be shared at gatech.edu as campus leadership evaluates and determines the response to each situation.

**Other Sources:**

- Twitter: @georgiatech, @gtpalatres
- Facebook: georgiatech, gtemergency
- Office of Information Technology information line: 404-894-2000
- Increment Weather Hotline: 404-894-0500
- gatech.edu/emergency/weather

**JANUARY**

New Year, New You: Effective Tips to Quit Smoking (or other behaviors)

Thursday, Jan. 12, noon to 1 p.m.
Room 229, Human Resources

Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) – Converting Your Budget

Thursday, Jan. 19, noon to 1 p.m.
Room 321, Student Center

Tips to Prevent ID Theft

Wednesday, Jan. 25, 11 a.m. to noon
Room 320, Student Center

**FEBRUARY**

Summer Camp Expo

Wednesday, Feb. 1, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Peachtree Room, Student Center

Understanding Mental Health and Important Triggers

Wednesday, Feb. 8, noon to 1 p.m.
Piedmont Room, Student Center

Using Your Leave to Welcome a Child

Thursday, Feb. 23, 11 a.m. to noon
Room 319, Student Center

**MARCH**

TAP/STRAP Info Session

Friday, March 3, noon to 1 p.m.
Student Center Theater

Organic, Natural, Local: How to Interpret Today’s Food Buzzwords

Tuesday, March 14, noon to 1 p.m.
Room 320, Student Center

**APRIL**

Bank at Work Day (Info Sessions: Getting Out of Debt, Building Your Child’s Education Fund)

Wednesday, April 12, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Student Center Ballroom

e-Cigarettes: What We All Need to Know

Tuesday, April 25, noon to 1 p.m.
Room 214, Human Resources

**MAY**

Caring for Aging Parents

Wednesday, May 3, noon to 1 p.m.
Room 320, Student Center

Work-Life Balance: Is It Possible?

Tuesday, May 16, 11 a.m. to noon
Room 320, Student Center

Deskercise: Exercises You Can Do at Work

Tuesday, May 24, noon to 1 p.m.
Piedmont Room, Student Center

**JUNE**

Other Leaves of Absence

Tuesday, June 6, noon to 1 p.m.
Scheller College of Business (Room TBD)

**JULY**

Design Your Destiny: Creating the Career You Want

Tuesday, July 11, 11 a.m. to noon.
Scheller College of Business (Room TBD)

**AUGUST**

First-Time Homebuyer’s Learning Session

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 11 a.m. to noon.
Scheller College of Business (Room TBD)

Using Your Leave for Maternity

Wednesday, Aug. 16, noon to 1 p.m.
Scheller College of Business (Room TBD)

**SEPTEMBER**

Saving for the Holidays

Wednesday, Sept. 13, noon to 1 p.m.
Room 320, Student Center

Understanding Mental Health and Important Triggers

Wednesday, Sept. 20, 11 a.m. to noon.
Room 320, Student Center

Discover STAMPS Health Benefits for Employees

Wednesday, Sept. 27, noon to 1 p.m.
Room 320, Student Center

**OCTOBER**

Take Control of Your Health: How to Read Food Labels

Wednesday, Oct. 11, 11 a.m. to noon.
Room 320, Student Center

Life, Estate, and Inheritance Planning

Tuesday, Oct. 17, noon to 1 p.m.
Piedmont Room, Student Center

Social Smoking: No Big Deal?

Tuesday, Oct. 24, noon to 1 p.m.
Room 229, Human Resources

**NOVEMBER**

Equally Prepared: Financial Planning for the LGBTQIA Community

Wednesday, Nov. 8, noon to 1 p.m.
Crescent Room, Student Center

Healthy Cooking Demo: Preparing a Healthy Holiday Meal

Wednesday, Nov. 15, noon to 1 p.m.
Room 343, Student Center

**DECEMBER**

Demystifying Life Insurance

Wednesday, Dec. 6, 11 a.m. to noon
Student Center Room (Room TBD)

TAP/STRAP Info Session

Tuesday, June 13, noon to 1 p.m.
Student Center Theater

Reduce Stress with Mindfulness

Wednesday, June 21, noon to 1 p.m.
Scheller College of Business (Room TBD)

Tips for Healthy Eyes

Wednesday, July 26, noon to 1 p.m.
Scheller College of Business (Room TBD)

First-Time Homebuyer’s Learning Session

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 11 a.m. to noon.
Scheller College of Business (Room TBD)

Using Your Leave for Maternity

Wednesday, Aug. 16, noon to 1 p.m.
Scheller College of Business (Room TBD)

Powers of Attorney

Tuesday, Aug. 22, noon to 1 p.m.
Scheller College of Business (Room TBD)

**FEBRUARY**

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Wednesday, Feb. 1, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Peachtree Room, Student Center

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