Innovation in a Changing World
The State of the Institute
In his annual State of the Institute address, President Wayne Clough said Tech stands at the competitive edge to lead the way in applying technology to solve the world’s problems. Illustration by David Moyers

Homecoming 2004
Thousands of alumni returned to campus to renew friendships, party at Buzz Bash, attend engaging seminars and class reunions and watch some razzle-dazzle football.

Basketball Diplomacy
Two Tech graduates built it and now the villagers come to play on the court the fraternity brothers made a reality in Africa.

Speaking Greek
A newly created alumni council is building better communication among fraternities, sororities and the administration.

Juan, Ernest and Fidel
Ernest Hemingway suggested that Juan Michelena attend Georgia Tech. Because of Fidel Castro, Michelena has never returned to his native Cuba.

Streaming Efficiency
Georgia Tech has responded to earlier cuts in state funding by streamlining its administration and continues to strive for excellence in the face of new budget cuts.

Top Flight
Alumnus John Saccomando enjoys flying in air shows as a pilot for the Blue Angels, the Navy’s most popular recruiting tool.

Basketball Diplomacy
Thousands of alumni returned to campus to renew friendships, party at Buzz Bash, attend engaging seminars and class reunions and watch some razzle-dazzle football.

Legendary Left-hander
Ten days after riding into Bobby Dodd Stadium in the rumble seat of the Ramblin’ Wreck, Kim King, a Tech legend on and off the football field, died after a hard-fought battle against cancer.

Buzzes Reunite
They swarmed back to campus to share tales of football game injuries and a smelly costume and celebrate 25 years of Buzz.

Wayne Clough said Tech stands at the competitive edge to lead the way in applying technology to solve the world’s problems.
Ten Great Years

Congratulations to President Clough on 10 great years. I look forward to 10 even better years starting now. I've grown up on this campus — my immediate family already holds six degrees from our beloved institution and I hope to add my own shortly. I feel that I truly “know” Georgia Tech. That being said, I feel much of our progress can be attributed to President Clough’s vision for enriching our school and indeed the entire academic community — with a few bowl games and a helluva trip to San Antonio thrown in there.

We realize the incalculable value of having “one of us” at the helm of the ship that is Tech’s future. I thank President Clough for his always-available ear and for the true value to my future degree that his work has added. I look forward to the great things in store for us all.

Jonathan Dorris
Senior, Industrial Engineering

Clough Restores Focus

The Fall issue of TECH TOPICS is outstanding and the interview with Wayne Clough especially strikes a resonant note with me since I am an admirer of President Clough. There was a time when I feared that Tech was becoming just another liberal arts university, but he has restored the engineering and scientific focus we needed. Keep up the good work.

Gerald Childress, IM 55
McDonough, Ga.

Tribute to Clough, Rainey

Many thanks for the fine Fall edition of TECH TOPICS featuring our outstanding president, Wayne Clough. He is certainly the right man for Georgia Tech.

I have so many pleasant memories of those wonderful Tech professors of my time — Daniel Fielder, Ashford Stalnaker, Thomas Seidell, all in electrical engineering; Frank Bogle, engineering mechanics; and Glenn Rainey, English, one of the most witty and popular professors on The Flats. An incident comes to mind when at the beginning of the quarter a student asked if Rainey gave pop quizzes. He replied, “The day I give a pop quiz will be the day you’ll see me climbing through the transom.”

A few weeks later, he excused himself from the room and closed the door behind him. In a few minutes, the transom opened and all eyes turned to see Professor Rainey crawling through. After deafening laughter from the class, Rainey proved true to his word and gave the pop quiz to end all quizzes. Wise to those who were unprepared.

Hal Branch, EE 51
Cleveland Heights, Tenn.

Papa Hemingway

I enjoyed the feature about Living History in the Fall issue of TECH TOPICS. Being a fan of Ernest Hemingway and a Georgia Tech graduate, I loved Juan Michelena’s tale. Finca Vigia — Lookout Farm — was the name of Hemingway’s residence near the village of San Francisco de Paula, 20 miles east of Havana. His boat Pilar was kept at a marina near Havana.

Larry R. Edders, ChE ’62
Athens, Ga.

While the story of Ernest Hemingway encouraging Juan Michelena to attend Georgia Tech was included in the “History of Living History” in the Fall issue, the rest of Juan Michelena’s story is featured in a Living History interview on page 18.

Life Goes On

I heard the famous “look to your left and right” speech in the fall of 1965. Of course, I did not know that it would be myself who would drop out of Georgia Tech before receiving a degree. I quickly found out that I was not as intelligent as I needed to be. No more just listening and passing tests. I had to study very hard to make any headway. My money gave out and I did not apply for a student loan. I did not commit suicide. I just went on with my life.

Georgia Tech had educated me enough that I did not have to be a nightclub dancer, a waitress, a grocery store cashier or any of the main career choices in my neighborhood.

A course in engineering graphics led to a drafting job. I started drafting in the days of stenciled linem and nib pens. Now I draft using the computer. I have worked at a civil engineering company for 25 years. I may not be the civil engineer, but I am a technical assistant. I was able to rear two sons after being divorced and pay my bills.

Thank you, Georgia Tech. I’m sure I am not the only left or right person who feels this way.

Barbara Scott Eldridge, Cls ’69
Atlanta

Family Pride

It is great to see that Jack Thompson, executive vice president of the Alexander-Tharpe Fund Inc., is an honorary alumnus. It was obvious after Jack’s first year as director of football recruiting that he was a keeper.

Jack came from the University of South Carolina, where he was the swimming team recruiting coach. USC was then in the ACC and had just won the ACC swimming championship. Jack’s current position of raising funds for athletics, which includes facilities, is quite apropos. When Jack started at Tech, Grant Field (as the stadium was then named) and the rest of the football facilities, to put it kindly, were not exactly called competitive. The deciding factor in hiring Jack was that USC did not have a swimming pool.

Ira C. Bernstein, IE ’60
Scotch Plains, N.J.

Hispanic Milestone

In a letter in the Fall TECH TOPICS, Miguel Avila, IM 81, of Tampa, Fla., recalled about 500 Hispanic students being at Georgia Tech when he was a freshman in 1977. I couldn’t help but want to address his sentiments. In fact, there were 106 Hispanic undergraduate students and a total enrollment of 8,800 undergraduate students in 1977.

The Institute, along with the Office of Undergraduate Admission, has been working tirelessly to increase the number of Hispanic students attending Tech. We are pleased to say that in the last four years this has been our largest growing minority population on campus and one of our most visible.

This past year’s 52 percent enrollment increase was a milestone, especially when you consider that we enrolled 108 Hispanic freshmen students — the total Hispanic population at Tech in 1977. This is an especially diverse group from across the United States, Puerto Rico and Central and South America. We appreciate the enthusiasm and concern of Mr. Avila and other alumni for Tech’s Hispanic students.

Giselle Martin
Assistant Director
Undergraduate Admission
Georgia Institute of Technology

Financial Stability

The Chronicle of Philanthropy reported overall private fund raising was up 2.3 percent last fiscal year — a recovery of sorts from fiscal 2002. But the outlook continues to be cloudy. Many external variables can impact philanthropy — the economy, the election, the war and added scrutiny from Congress and the IRS.

Here’s an interesting stat — 400 charities raised $47.1 billion last year, almost 20 percent of the total of $240.7 billion raised by all charities in the United States. There are more than 870,000 charities in the country. The top spot was garnered by the Salvation Army, which raised $1.3 billion, almost twice as much as the next in line, the American Cancer Society. Georgia Tech was number 185 with $74 million. That’s pretty good considering that we don’t have a medical school.

We’ve talked before about declining state support for Tech. Georgia is not alone in its dilemma of finding enough money to fund all of its very important organizations and initiatives. In Virginia, the presidents of three major public universities met with state legislators to lobby for greater independence in exchange for less state support. Leaders from the University of Virginia, Virginia Tech and the College of William and Mary believe that the state is holding the universities back in their efforts to compete globally.

Their state funding was described as erratic while state control of tuition and other aspects of their operations is onerous. It’s a complicated issue but the message is clear that things must change. Financial stability is one key. Allowing the universities to operate with greater agility is another.
Give My Wife Some Credit

I enjoyed the article on “Buzz @ 25” (TECH TOPICS Fall 2004). I would just offer one bit of historical trivia for the record. In 1972 my wife, Judi McNair, donned a homemade yellow jacket costume and performed at a couple of the home football games. She fondly remembers riding on the Ramblin’ Wreck as one of the high points of our time there. (She was working at the time so I could go to school.)

A photo in the 1972 Blueprint shows part of the costume. It cost considerably less than the $1,400 that Richie Bland paid, but the idea was great and her mascot was a big hit.

I hope Judi’s early version and predecessor to the current Buzz can be remembered to your readers and my fellow alumni.

Cam McNair, CE ’73
Fort Collins, Colo.

Buzz Forerunner

The 25th anniversary of Buzz reminded me of my experience as a yellow jacket mascot in 1973-74. I was embarrassed by the costume I inherited. A girl had made one that consisted of a black sweater, black leotards, black ski mask with an open face and antennas made from yellow plastic knitting needles. She wore a pair of yellow vinyl hot pants with an attached stuffed black and yellow vinyl tail and stinger and went onto the field at a midseason game. After viewing her performance, I went to the dean of students and said the mascot needed more enthusiasm and athletic ability. The dean informed me that she had worn the costume only because no one else wanted to do it.

He then asked me if I wanted the job. Well, it was put up or shut up, so I agreed. I modified the costume by adapting a pair of long gymnastic pants with a hole cut for the stinger. Because the pants were nylon and white, and could not be dyed, I spray-painted the pants black. I continued in that role until the end of football season.

The cheerleaders were not especially excited about this “interloper,” having not been consulted regarding his addition. The yellow jacket was not taken on any road games and was not allowed on the Ramblin’ Wreck. I was allowed at the coin toss and following the toss, I would “chase” the visiting team representative off the field, jumping and turning to sting him. One opposing team rep actually took a swing at me as I stung him. Fortunately he did not connect.

Tumbling was difficult due to awkwardness of the tail, but was appreciated by the fans. Because the costume was not designed with tumbling in mind, it required repair after every game. The costume was returned to the school after that season, and its fate is unknown to me. I don’t believe it was used again after that first season. I know that Dave Roulo, Biol ’74, of Savannah had a picture of me in the costume, but as far as I know it is the only one.

I was a member of Chi Psi fraternity and after graduation served as a captain in the Army. My wife and I make custom sculpted area rugs. I also do computer consulting with small businesses.

William R. Barnes, Mgt ’74
Austin, Texas

Busy Bees

In connection with the 25-year anniversary of Buzz, I thought I would add a little history to the appearance of Buzz as the mascot.

Although Buzz may have been the official mascot in 1980, a fellow Tech student and I arranged through the Athletic Association’s sports information office and the program director at WSB radio to use the station’s “Wis-bee” costumes for the Homecoming day events. The Wis-bees were more like giant honeybees — not yellow jackets, but it was the next best thing.

My friend and I made appearances at the pep rally at Grant Field, in the Ramblin’ Wreck parade on Saturday morning and at the game. It was quite an experience for us. I was chased by a dog that got loose at the parade and my friend was passed up the bleachers while in costume. We certainly were not as entertaining as the Buzz of today, but we helped build the mascot tradition at Tech.

Suzanne Mol Miller, IM ’82
Roswell, Ga.

T-Man Memories

Thirty years ago, T-Man, the daring and resourceful masked rider of the plains, and his faithful, idiot companion, T-Squared, entertained at Thursday night pep rallies usually held at the North Stands. The period was from about 1971 through 1976. Tapes recorded on a reel-to-reel player were broadcast over the cheerleaders’ speakers. The cast of characters was assembled from Pi Kappa Alpha’s house and acted out. I still have some audio tapes.

Costumes, the pep band, cheerleaders and some star football players would also be there. The Ramblin’ Reck Club organized it all.

We used a “Batman” story line each week in which the bad guys win the first fight and T-Man, riding in on the running boards of the Wreck with T-Squared running behind, wins the second fight and saves the day. The Ramblin’ Wreck had to have disposable diapers duct-taped underneath before coach Pepper Rogers would allow it on the Astroturf! Nigel K. Glover, CH ’77
Ramblin’ Reck Club 1974-77
T-Man 1975, 1976
Grayson, Ga.

Drama with Dinner

Regarding the letters concerning restaurants on North Avenue, the one nearest the street from the Varsity in 1937-38 was definitely Pilgreen’s. There was a sign out front that read, “Pilgreen’s the Steak King — Biggest T-Bone Steak in Town — 35 cents.”

Mr. Pilgreen was rather portly and I was dining there once when he got mad at the cook. I heard him shout angrily. “I’m gonna kill him! Where’s that cleaver?” The cook came running through the restaurant and out the front door with Mr. Pilgreen in hot pursuit. I don’t guess Mr. Pilgreen caught the cook because he never went to jail.

Ashley D. “Dick” Pace Jr., Cls ’63
Pensacola, Fla.

Favorite Diner

Seeing the Fall 2004 TECH TOPICS letters about eating places near Tech made me recall one of my favorite places called The 7 Steers, across from the Fox Theatre. They had really good hamburgers (seven kinds) and furniture on the ceiling. The upstairs was more cozy than down. They had a hamburger special for a dollar and a quarter.

The letters about the diner across from the stadium have been interesting. I recall the diner quite well. As a co-op student I lived in Techwood Dorm from 1947 to 1952 and that diner was built during that period. As I recall, it contained the words “Yellow Jacket” in its name.

Several of us Techwood residents would have breakfast there on Saturdays before class. It was located near the Tech YMCA on North Avenue.

By the way, I had Saturday classes each of the 12 quarters I was at Tech and considered it a privilege to sometimes schedule a 9 o’clock class as my first class. That was not always easy as I had 21 hours for each of my last seven quarters.

Dr. William K. Brooks, Text ’58
Columbus, Ga.

Breakfast at Tech

The letters about the diner across from the stadium have been interesting. I recall the diner quite well. As a co-op student I lived in Techwood Dorm from 1947 to 1952 and that diner was built during that period. As I recall, it contained the words “Yellow Jacket” in its name.

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By the way, I had Saturday classes each of the 12 quarters I was at Tech and considered it a privilege to sometimes schedule a 9 o’clock class as my first class. That was not always easy as I had 21 hours for each of my last seven quarters.

Of course, the usual place for breakfast was at Junior’s on North Avenue in the next block, adjacent to the Techwood Theater.

Thanks for the great job you are doing with TECH TOPICS.

Paul Edfeldt, IE ’52
Birmingham, Ala.

Great Late Snack

I just finished reading the always excellent TECH TOPICS.

In regard to dining places across North Avenue from Tech’s campus, I started at Tech in 1953 and moved into Brown Dorm on the corner of North Avenue and Techwood Drive. I lived on the third floor on the North Avenue side. Across the street was Junior’s — the best short-order grill ever.

After getting tired from late night studying, one of the things I liked best was to walk across the street and get some good coffee and a slice of warm blueberry pie topped with ice cream. It was absolutely great.

Norman K. Brooks, Text ’58
Columbus, Ga.

WE WELCOME YOUR LETTERS

The Georgia Tech alumni publications, TECH TOPICS and the Alumni Magazine, welcome letters to the editor. Please include your full name, address and telephone number. Letters may be edited for clarity, space and content.

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Thousands of alumni returned to campus during Homecoming to celebrate reunions, catch President Wayne Clough presenting the annual State of the Institute address, attend engaging seminars at the Global Learning Center, party with Buzz at Buzz Bash and watch some razzle-dazzle football as Georgia Tech defeated Duke 24-7.

With a group of former Buzzes roaming campus for their 25th reunion a certain amount of mischief was bound to be afoot, but no one expected it on the football field. At least Duke didn’t.

The surprise gridiron play came when Tech quarterback Reggie Ball tossed the football to running back P.J. Daniels, who then lofted it for a 13-yard touchdown to Calvin Johnson.

Janice N. Wittschiebe, Arch 78, M Arch 80, Alumni Association vice chairman for Activities, served as Homecoming chair. She was given a ride in the rumble seat of the Alumni Ramblin’ Wreck driven by chairman Carey H. Brown, IE 69, in the annual parade.

“Homecoming is our largest alumni event and we work to make it better every year,” said Vallee Donovan, Mgt 93, vice president for Events and Travel. “Our newest Homecoming events, Buzz Bash — this was the fifth year — and alumni seminars are traditions that are deepening every year. Strengthening alumni relationships to Georgia Tech through these events benefits everyone — our alumni, Georgia Tech and the Alumni Association.”

The classes of 1979, 1964 and 1954 observed key reunions on Oct. 15. In addition to celebrating milestone reunions, the three classes raised a record $16.7 million for Georgia Tech. The Class of ’79 alone raised $9.5 million.

Members of all other classes gathered under the West Stands for the gold medal award-winning Buzz Bash reunion celebration featuring food, fun, entertainment and a laser show. Young alumni congregated in the loft and Buzz, who turned 25, celebrated on stage with current and former mascots.
Alumni House

Homecoming 2004

Far left: The Ramblin' Wreck leads the Yellow Jackets on the field before the start of the Homecoming game against Duke. Left: Tom and Kathy White watch the Ramblin' Wreck Parade. Below: Students prepare a float designed to look like the Tech Tower for Homecoming. Bottom: Alumni Association Chairman Carey Brown drives the Ramblin' Wreck during the Ramblin' Wreck parade while Janice Wittschiebe, Homecoming chair, rides in the rumble seat.
SKY'S THE LIMIT
Homecoming seminars showcase research

Robert Braun calls the exploration of Mars “the crown jewel of NASA’s whole program.”

A series of Homecoming seminars for Georgia Tech alumni showcased shining achievements on campus and illustrated that the sky’s the limit for the Institute.

Braun worked for NASA for 16 years before joining Tech’s School of Aeronautical Engineering in 2003. The David and Andrew Lewis professor of space technology, Braun also is the co-director of Georgia Tech’s Space Systems Design Laboratory.

He told a large alumni audience, which included a few youngsters, that NASA could have mined Mars sooner if the United States had not halted the missions after the launch of Viking I and II in 1976. “It’s a tragic crime that we didn’t go back for almost 20 years.”

Braun contributed to the design and flight operations of the Mars Pathfinder and Microprobe projects and served as a consultant for the Spirit rover that landed on the planet in January.

He helped develop the airbags that protected Pathfinder when it landed on Mars in 1997. Braun’s favorite photograph shows those deployed airbags resting on the planet’s surface. “My job was to land it. You’re sitting at your computer console on July 4, 1997, after five years of work planning out how you’re going to fly the thing to Mars, how it’s going to fly through the atmosphere, how it’s going to miss the rock that could wipe it out and how it’s going to land safely. When this comes on your computer screen, it’s like winning the Super Bowl,” Braun said.

The two rovers that landed on Mars in January have helped scientists learn about the planet’s climate, soil and possible microbial life.

Georgia Tech is playing a role in Mars exploration endeavors. Braun said students in the Space Systems Design Lab are working on answering such questions as how long an airplane could fly on Mars and how entry vehicles could be slowed down. The Tech projects, most funded by NASA, are even looking at planetary defense systems against asteroids.

Smart Growth

The Institute also is taking a leadership role in “quality community growth.”

Catherine Ross, director of the Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development at Tech, said Technology Square exemplifies the “live, work, play” idea. “We’ve tried to do it right with condos, restaurants and a play. “We’ve tried to do it right with condos, restaurants and plan.”

Ross, the Harry West chair for quality growth and regional development and the first endowed faculty member in the College of Architecture.

She also was the first executive director of the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority, created by the state Legislature in 1999 to help metro Atlanta’s 13 counties comply with clean air standards and develop plans to move their ever-growing populations from place to place.

In the next 30 years, two-thirds of Americans will live in urban regions, Ross said. “The challenge is to absorb growth and improve quality of life.”

She said quality growth takes into consideration such factors as opportunities to socialize, green space, a safe environment, cultural offerings and places to walk.

Lifestyle affects 50 percent of a person’s health, according to Ross, who said that the leading cause of death in developed countries is a chronic condition, not an infectious disease. Obesity and air quality are two of the biggest culprits.

She said one way to fight obesity is to lay sidewalks. “If you put a sidewalk down, people use it,” Ross said. “A cul-de-sac is not connected to anything. Some of those could be turned into some very nice trails.”

Heated Situations

The Far East is a “potboiler” of dangerous ingredients, but diplomacy can turn down the heat, said John Endicott, director of the Center for International Affairs at Georgia Tech.

At a Homecoming seminar on “Security Developments in the Asia/Pacific Region,” Endicott told alumni and guests that although Taiwan is “getting hotter by the moment” and ongoing disputes between India and Pakistan have been ratcheted up with the addition of nuclear weapons capabilities on both sides, North Korea is the United States’ primary concern in the area. Although South Korea has traditionally been an ally, “there is a new generation in South Korea that doesn’t share the development of history we went through mutually from 1957 and beyond and who feel the United States has betrayed Korea as a whole,” Endicott said.

That feeling among the Korean people reaches back to the United States’ first contact with Korea in 1865 when a forcible attempt to open Korea to foreign trade by the US General Sherman was met with the attack and burning of the ship and the massacre of its crew by Korean troops, Endicott said. Resentment also still lingers over the United States’ 1910 acknowledge-ment of Japan’s takeover of Korea.

In recent history, the Koreans have also felt slighted by the United States, he said. Disagreements over nuclear disarmament and threats by North Korea to attack neighboring countries if sanctions are imposed on the country led to President George W. Bush referring to North Korea as part of an “axis of evil” in his January 2002 State of the Union address.

The North Koreans “became enraged” and bilateral talks between the United States and North Korea stopped entirely, Endicott said. “Now the United States will not deal with North Korea individually. The U.S. position is that we have to have China, Russia, Japan and South Korea in the room with us when we meet.”

With focused diplomacy, however, Endicott said the United States can deal with the complex issues in the Asian/Pacific region — from China to Korea to Taiwan to India and Pakistan.

“Perhaps an organization can come out of these six-party talks that can be an Asian NATO. If we work hard and show the world we are committed to resolving the area’s problems, we can create a cooperative security community in northeast Asia,” Endicott said.

Crowded Skies

Amy K. Fritchett, an associate professor in Georgia Tech’s School of Industrial and Systems Engineering and the School of Aerospace Engineering, discussed “Securing the Future of U.S. Air Transportation.”

“After serving on the National Research Council Committee on Aeronautics Research and Development, I have to say the future looks a bit dire,” she said. “We’re using basically the same air traffic control system that we used in the 1960s, but the system has to handle more than 6,000 aircraft at any given time. It’s a marvelous that it works so well given the outdated technology still being used.”

Fritchett said the United States has an even bigger problem with capacity in the skies and in the cockpit.

“Last year U.S. airlines logged 660 million passenger miles and 6 billion ton-miles of cargo,” she said. “That number is only going to rise, which creates a problem with separation of aircraft. Historically pilots controlled the separation, but now aircraft are increasingly becoming automated to the point that there’s not enough room in the cockpit for all the instruments.”
High-tech Melody

Sound of music gets boost from innovative technology

Innovative technology has taken center stage in Georgia Tech’s music department. The sound of music now includes notes from 15 computer stations fully equipped with mixers, keyboards, digital and audio interfaces, sound modules and the gamut of software applications.

Alumni attending a seminar on “Music at Georgia Tech: Tradition, Technology and Transfiguration” got a technological sound bite. After Frank Clark, head of the music department, saluted Tech’s musical tradition he gave a sweeping fanfare to the future of technology and music.

“The reason I am here is to look at the next phase,” Clark said. “We are looking at starting graduate and undergraduate degrees in music technology.”

Clark said that while Tech students excel in engineering, computer science and technology courses, more than half the students have significant experience in high school band, choir or orchestra.

The music department at the Couch Building, which got its start in 1919 as an elementary school, has completed the first phase of a $650,000 renovation that includes a Pro-Tools recording studio and a new computer lab for classes in music technology, computer music and multimedia.

“God willing, we will have the second phase completed by the beginning of next year,” Clark said.

The same enthusiasm exists at Georgia Tech band. As part of the Georgia Tech band to demonstrate the wizardry of technology, Clark combined the performance with a prerecorded rendition by the Georgia Tech band to demonstrate the wizardry of technology.

A 14-foot-tall robot given the task of kicking a scaled-down soccer ball begins to approach the ball when a man sitting across from the tabletop claps his hands.

Its senses alerted, the robot stops and turns its head in the direction of the human. The man waves, but after a moment, the robot ignores the distraction and returns its attention to the assigned task. Once more as it begins to approach the ball, the man claps loudly.

Again, the robot stops and turns its head as if to study the human. The man claps and waves and succeeds in getting the robot’s attention. The robot goes over to the human. The man waves and the robot waves back. The man waves again and after a few moments with nothing happening, the robot appears bored. It returns to its task and approaches the soccer ball. As the man watches, the robot makes direct contact and kicks the ball away.

The video presentation is over. Ron Arkin, Regents professor in the College of Computing and director of the Mobile Robot Laboratory, has shown a definite interaction between a human and a robot. In the future, that interaction will become much more sophisticated.


A robotic dancing partner or robots that teach dancing are real possibilities. The audience had just seen a video of four robots dancing in rhythm to a modern day beat, which prompted someone in the audience to quip, “Hey, those robots are doing the robot.”

In the near future, robots may be developed to fulfill the role of assisting the elderly. “Maybe instead of a walker, you’ll have a robot to escort you,” Arkin said.

Robotic assistance for the elderly may be in Medicare’s future and is driving robotic research in Japan, where there is a large elderly population, Arkin said.

“Would you want a robot in your home?” Arkin asked. “The point is, from a human-robot interaction perspective, we don’t really know. You may think you know what you want in a robot that lives in your house, but you may really not want it when you get it.”

Arkin said researchers use ethological models and study animals to determine what people actually want. “Our goal is to be able to design what you want — not just to design what we want and then impose it upon you,” Arkin said.

Task-oriented robots such as vacuum cleaners and lawn mowers are becoming part of the mainstream of daily routine. In the future, they will be more reliable and more prevalent.
They swarmed to the President’s Suite at the Student Success Center to share stories of football game injuries, crowd-pleasing pranks and one very smelly costume.

By Kimberly Link-Wills

The former mascots gathered to toast one another and reminisce before the start of Buzz Bash, which included a salute to those who have worn the stinger since the larger-than-life yellow jacket tradition officially began 25 years ago.

Current Buzzes stepped up to shake the hand of Richie Bland, AP 81, who became the first official mascot in 1979. Bland posed for pictures with the second and third Buzzes, Jeff Cooper, HS 85, and Jeff Jenkins, ME 84. Brothers John, ME 84, and Mike Kluber, EE 87, were greeted with hugs and slaps on the back when they arrived from Illinois.

They all laughed when asked about the hardest part of being Buzz.

“Ugly fans at away games,” Cooper said.

“Death threats,” Bland piped in, telling the tale of the day the Athletic Association would not let him travel to one particular out-of-state game because of a message that “Buzz was going to get it.”

For the most part, however, the revelers celebrated Buzz’s achievements.

Rick Hargett, ISyE 98, was there. He was president of the skydiving club at Tech and served as an aerial guide for fellow mascot Eric Taylor, BC 97, when he glided into the baseball, football and SAC fields as the parachuting Buzz.

Leandro de la Torriente was there too. He won the national mascot championship in 2001. Due to graduate in May, de la Torriente has been one of Tech’s Buzzes off and mostly on since arriving at the Institute in 1999.

Most of the women at the Buzz reunion were wives, girlfriends or daughters of former mascots — with the noted exception of two females.

One was Susan Davis, Biol 91, the only female Buzz sanctioned by the Athletic Association and emcee for the Buzz Bash birthday celebration.

Then there was Jane Nelson, EES 76, dressed in a homemade Buzz getup. Nelson was an alternate cheerleader back in ’73. She said Tech’s cheerleaders asked her to serve as their mascot. Nelson wore yellow vinyl shorts and handmade wings.

During the gathering of young and not-so-young Buzzes, Nelson leaned on her prop — a cane — perhaps to prove that she is the queen bee.
By Neil B. McGahee

The Georgia Tech Greek Alumni Council, an advisory group made up of former fraternity and sorority members, has held a series of planning meetings exploring ways to serve as advisers and advocates for Tech’s Greek community.

“Greeks make up about 25 percent of the campus population,” said Karl Paul, IM 69, a Tau Kappa Epsilon alumnus. “We want to work with the Institute and the Greek system to promote a positive, proactive influence for the entire campus.”

Paul said the council has formed a seven-member executive committee and four committees working to recruit, organize and train Greek-affiliated alumni to assist the Greek community as a whole. The four committees are chapter life, facilities, campus and public relations and alumni membership.

“One of the things we have done very quickly is establish a clear line of communication with the Office of Student Affairs,” he said. “We want them to know that we’re available to work with them for the support of the Greek system.”

Greeks organizations at Georgia Tech are almost as old as the Institute itself. Alpha Tau Omega established the first fraternity on campus in 1888 and by 1922, 18 fraternities had established chapters, Tech’s first sorority, Alpha Xi Delta, was founded in 1934, two years after women were admitted to the Institute.

Today, Tech’s Greek system boasts 42 active chapters and more than 2,300 active undergraduate members.

Bill Oakes, Mgt 91, a Sigma Phi Epsilon alumnus, said better communication with the Hill is welcome.

“When I entered Tech in 1983, the campus attitude toward Greeks was good, but it could have been better. I’m hoping this alumni council can help create a better dialogue with the administration as well as current Greek students,” he said. “We realize we are much more effective acting as a group rather than acting on our own.”

Oakes offered an example of how alumni have already stepped in to assist the Greek community.

“All but a few of the Greek organizations have houses on campus. One of the first things we did was conduct an audit to determine services needed by Greek organizations ranging from accounting services to HVAC maintenance to plumbing and compile a list of providers,” he said. “Some of the fraternity and sorority houses have had very good experiences with service providers and others have had not so good and we pass along that information. That was a really big first step because it created ways for us to work together in a cooperative relationship.”

Alice Snedeker, this year’s Panhellenic president, a fifth-year senior and a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority, said alumni input is needed.

“We’re trying to go to class and study and manage the house, which basically amounts to managing a small business,” she said. “The alumni with all their resources in the private sector are giving us the extra support that we really need.”

Paul said one of the long-term goals of the council is to increase the membership of Greek organizations.

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Paul said the entire Institute benefits from Greek involvement long after fraternity and sorority members have gotten out.

“The propensity to give to Roll Call for Greek alumni is more than 30 percent higher than non-Greek and the average gift is more than $100 higher,” he said. “Over 70 percent of all gifts to Georgia Tech of more than $100,000 since 1919 came from Greeks.”

Bill Schafer came to Tech in July as vice president of Student Affairs. He told the committee that he welcomes the opportunity to work with them.

“Georgia Tech has one of the strongest Greek systems I’ve ever seen,” Schafer said. “But there are too many surprises due to a lack of communication. Improving communication is high on my list of things to do to make the Greek system even stronger and I look forward to the alumni participation.”

Nearly 1,800 Georgia Tech alumni, parents, family members and legacy students visited campus for Family Weekend Sept. 30 through Oct. 2. Family Weekend activities got rolling with a reception and welcome from President Wayne Clough at the Alumni/Faculty House Thursday evening. A variety of informational seminars were available for students and their families at the Global Learning Center at Technology Square on Friday, including a rundown of activities available to students, a tour of the campus and a talk about Georgia Tech’s many traditions. Informational sessions were also available on study abroad, career services and graduate school opportunities. Tech grads and their legacy students learned about financial aid, Tech’s renowned co-op program and the application process.

On Saturday students and their families enjoyed a pregame tailgate barbecue on the Tech Tower lawn followed by the Yellow Jackets’ matchup with the Miami Hurricanes at Bobby Dodd Stadium.

“Family Weekend is a great time on campus. Parents of current students and alumni with high school students spend a few days getting to know Georgia Tech better, and the Alumni Association is privileged to host them,” said Vallee Donovan, vice president of Events and Travel for the Alumni Association. “It’s actually our largest event and keeps growing every year. We’re proud of the support it provides to Georgia Tech and to Georgia Tech parents.”
Alumnus Orson Swindle, who was a prisoner of war in North Vietnam for seven years and later served in Ronald Reagan’s administration, told members of Georgia Tech clubs “we learn to succeed from our failures.”

A Marine pilot whose plane was shot down on Nov. 11, 1966, as he flew his 250th and last mission, Swindle, IM 59, was the keynote speaker for the Leadership Georgia Tech luncheon Oct. 29.

Even in a POW camp you can develop leadership skills, he said.

Leadership qualities are learned “the hard way through multitudes of experiences both good and bad, successes and failures,” he said. “We literally learn to succeed by the experiences of setbacks and failures. Each of us can be a leader — in our families, in our churches, in our schools and in the Georgia Tech alumni network.”

People grow as leaders, said Swindle, who served in the Reagan administration from 1981 to ’89 directing financial assistance programs to economically distressed rural and municipal areas. In 2001, Swindle was appointed head of a U.S. delegation that reviewed the security of information systems.

Swindle commended those who had assumed leadership roles in Georgia Tech clubs and said it was especially important for young professionals to become involved because it represents a skill that can be highlighted on a resume.

“You learn by taking on responsibility,” Swindle said. “People running businesses that demand leadership look for people who have the experience of, perhaps, running a chapter of the Alumni Association.”

Alumni Association President Joseph P. Irwin gave two individual awards at the luncheon. Frank Small, a driving force behind the North Metro club, received the Best Friend of Georgia Tech Award and Harold Tyber, IE 74, who is serving his second term as president of the Colorado Georgia Tech Club, received the Ramblin’ Wreck Volunteer of the Year award.

Irwin also recognized 16 clubs that advanced though the club’s tier program. All tier one clubs were represented at Leadership Georgia Tech: Birmingham, Ala.; Colorado; East Metro Atlanta; Golden Isles; Heart of Texas; Houston; Jacksonville, Fla.; Lowcountry; North Metro Atlanta; Northeast Tennessee; Suncoast Florida; Tallahassee, Fla.; Triangle; Washington, D.C.; and Western North Carolina.
Juan, Ernest and Fidel

Political, literary figures played role in Cuban alumnus’ life

Though he had no close relationship with either man, Fidel Castro and Ernest Hemingway both played pivotal roles in Juan Michelena’s life. Michelena, ME 62, grew up in Havana, Cuba, where his mother, an educator, and his father, a lawyer, wanted their children to learn English at an early age. Michelena and his sister attended St. George, an American school in Havana, for their early education. Michelena attended a private military academy for high school.

During this time, the political situation in Cuba became more and more volatile as Fidel Castro orchestrated a revolution. Desperate to maintain control, dictator Fulgencio Batista’s regime became more oppressive and violent.

“My father insisted I leave Cuba to go to college. When it came the time to choose a college, I began to look at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, as an option because friends I knew were going there and I knew it was a good engineering school,” Michelena said.

The advice of an American whose boat was docked next to his father’s at the Tarara Yacht Club Marina in east Havana changed his mind. Michelena said his acquaintance with the American began at the marina.

“When we came in on our boat and he was there he would help us with our lines. When he found out I could speak English, we would talk about fishing,” Michelena said. “We all called him Papa — that was his nickname, everybody called him that — and I knew that he was an American writer, but that was about all I knew about him.”

When Michelena mentioned college, Papa asked him where he planned to go. When Michelena said he planned to go to Rensselaer with friends, “Papa said, ‘Why do you want to go there? It’s too cold. Why don’t you consider Georgia Tech?’ That was the first time in my life I’d ever heard of Tech, so I asked him where it was. He said, ‘It’s in Atlanta. It’s a great engineering school, the weather is great and it’s not too far away from your family,’” Michelena said.

Intrigued with the recommendation, Michelena researched the school and, in the fall of 1958, he was enrolled at Tech.

It was in his second quarter at Tech that Michelena realized Papa was Ernest Hemingway.

“We started talking about Steinbeck and all of the famous American writers and here was my friend, I said, ‘What?’ That sounds terribly naïve, I suppose. I knew he was a writer. I’m sure I knew his name was Hemingway, but his name could have been Jones. I was brought up in Spanish schools and I knew Shakespeare and Cervantes, but I wasn’t really aware I was dealing with a national treasure,” Michelena said. “If it had been Jce DiMaggio I would have been very impressed.”

Michelena said there were 72 Cuban students on campus when he arrived.

“The ones with more experience helped us get oriented and showed us around. They taught us the tips of Georgia Tech as far as selection of classes and what professors to take. It was like a fraternity of culture.”

Castro took over the government of Cuba in January 1959 and less than two years later, Michelena said Castro’s rule of Cuba began to reach out and affect his life. He worried about his parents, his sister and his high school sweetheart, Teresita, back home.

“My plan was to go to Tech, get an education, go back to Cuba, start working and eventually get married, but things continued to deteriorate under Castro. I remember my father sending me a note saying Castro had established exchange controls: and he couldn’t send me money anymore,” Michelena said. “He said I could either come back home and weather the hurricane there or stay in Atlanta and make it on my own. I chose to stay.”

Michelena moved out of the dorms and into a house with several other Cuban students to save money.

“At the beginning of my junior year, in October, Teresita called me and told me they had taken away everything their family owned and her father was sending her and her younger brother and sister to Miami,” he said. “It was in that conversation that we decided if we had to face this challenge, we’d do it together. That telephone conversation was monumental.”

In December the young couple — he was 19, she was 17 — were married at Teresita’s godfather’s home in Key Biscayne, Fla.

By the time Michelena graduated, the couple’s son, Juan III, was born. Michelena took a job in the research and development lab with Celanese Corp. in Charlotte, N.C., where he helped develop textile applications during the early stages of polyester.

During his four years with Celanese, Michelena and his wife had two more children, daughthers Bettina and Elena Patricia, and the Michelenas became U.S. citizens.

“I still felt very strongly about my ties to Cuba, but I was growing very strong ties to the United States. I realized how I was contributing to this country and it was contributing to us,” he said.

Michelena worked for Burlington Industries in Greensboro, N.C., and then became vice president of development for Texfi Industries, a small public company that was leading the industry in the develop-
ment of new products and applications for double-knit polyester.

“One of my early mentors at Celanese told me if a company was not giving me the opportunity to grow and learn, it was time to move on. As long as a job is continuing to challenge you and as long as it can contribute to your growth, stay, but as soon as you flatten out and stop learning, move on. This was a driving force through this period in my career,” Michelena said.

As a 30-year-old Texfi vice president, Michelena found himself representing the company on Wall Street and traveling to Europe during the crest of the company’s success, but he said his true test came, as always, when the bubble began to burst.

“I thought I was incredibly smart because the business was growing like crazy. But like all trends, especially with fashion, there are highs and lows and we very quickly went from the sublime to the ridiculous. All of a sudden sales went straight down around 1975 and when business started to deteriorate, things changed and we found ourselves with a company that was highly leveraged to finance growth but without the sales margins we needed to meet the immense costs,” Michelena said.

“People now are complaining about globalization and losing jobs to overseas, but this is something that started in textiles 30 years ago. The textile industry is very labor intensive, so we were faced with very strong competition from Asia. We had to face this challenge by adapting to the new realities using quality, innovation and sound management,” Michelena said.

Celanese approached Michelena with a unique opportunity — take over operations of its Venezuelan company and revive it. The company represented an investment Celanese made in 1952 that had never been very profitable.

“To me it became a great opportunity because I wanted to give our kids the bicultural experience I had and that was so important in my life.” Michelena took over the company in Caracas, which manufactured fiber products for the textile industry in Venezuela.

“I started my role of turning the company around, resizng the business and shutting down nonprofitable operations and directing that money back into the profitable areas,” Michelena said. “I was there for two years and we were really turning the business around and starting to show some profit.”

But Celanese decided to close the company.

“They wanted me to come back to the United States,” Michelena said, “but I felt strongly that I had a responsibility to the people I had hired and I asked Celanese if I could consider selling the company. Celanese allowed me to find investors to buy the business and continue to run it and I was fortunate to find Venezuelan friends who were interested and wanted to join me in this adventure and run the same risk I was willing to take. I told them, ‘I will put in the know-how and you will put in the know-who,’” he said.

“Venezuela has a highly political environment and, being a foreigner, it was important to have local partners who were known for their ethics and industrial success.”

Michelena and his partners closed the deal with Celanese in March 1982 and, by the end of the year, the company was renamed Mantex and showed its most profitable year in the company’s history. In 1983, the company earned more than it had in all of its previous years combined.

“While we were enjoying this boom, we started looking at other opportunities for growth and this is how we evolved into what became the bulk of our business. When we bought the company, a small part of the operation was making cigarette filters for the tobacco industry in Venezuela. This is a highly technical process that is in the hands of about five manufacturers in the whole world,” he said.

“We were looking at worldwide customers for our products and we went to China. The Chinese were very interested in filtered cigarettes and they quickly became our most important customer. This was very timely because the textile business in Venezuela was beginning to slow down.”

Even as the manufacture of cigarette filters became the most profitable part of their business, Michelena and his Mantex partners continued to move ahead.

“When pressure on the cigarette industry started to emerge, we sensed that growth was going to slow down significantly and it was important to think of what we could do to maintain our growth. When we bought the company, we’d acquired the manufacturing facilities and the land around it. It is located at the outskirts of Valencia, one of Venezuela’s largest cities. We knew we had the right location to do something with the land we had.”

The company built the first phase of a 900,000-square-foot shopping center and expanded into the retail development market. But politics again began to infringe on Michelena’s life.

“Politics had played an important role in our lives and Ten we felt we had to modify our whole life plan because of our experience in Cuba and it was happening again. Probably in a large degree due to her foresight, we began to consider moving back to the United States,” he said.

The Michelenas built a large home in Key Biscayne, where they had been married, to accommodate visits from their three children and their families. They all live within walking distance and the couple’s 10 grandchildren spend a lot of time at their home. Michelena maintained an apartment in Caracas as he gradually turned over day-to-day operations of Mantex to his partner’s son. He resigned as chairman of the company last year and now serves as a member of the board.

To this day, Michelena has not returned to his native Cuba because of Castro.

“I have no interest in returning until the political system changes. I don’t feel I can go there as long as Castro continues to oppress the people of my country,” Michelena said.
state of Georgia is presently facing a tight revenue picture, and we have seen the results in the form of a series of reductions in the state allocations to Georgia Tech, amounting to a total of $51 million. Today, we are operating with an allocation from the state that equals the three years ago, but we have 1,250 more students. Even so, Georgia Tech has never been deterred by a short-term lapse in state funding, and we have consistently shown our resilience in raising non-state funding to help fill the gap.

Today, the state provides only 25 percent of our total budget, down from 34 percent 10 years ago. Over the past 10 years, Georgia Tech funded over 80 percent of its capital construction needs, and today the Institute pays for the salaries for over half of its faculty and research staff with non-state funds. We have streamlined our processes and reduced employee levels, even though our enrollment is at a record level.

I believe it is time for a statewide policy discussion about how public higher education will be funded in Georgia, particularly in view of the challenges that lay ahead. In the future, Atlanta and Georgia must be ready to compete for technology industry not with adjacent states, but with Shanghai, Bangalore and Moscow. To do any less is to cede the best jobs to others.

The process begins with admitting one of the smartest, most well-rounded freshman classes of any public university in the United States. Even as the class got a little bigger, it also got a little smarter, registering the highest average SAT score of any freshman class in its history. And it is also the most diverse class we have ever admitted, with more women, minorities and international students than any prior class.

Our students do not stop achieving after they get here. At the other end of the pipeline, our graduating seniors are winning some of the most prestigious scholarships and fellowships in the world.

Our nation is in serious need of technological leaders and Georgia Tech is one of the few places that can provide them. Given the qualifications of our incoming freshmen we need to challenge them with a rigorous curriculum and teach them leadership and problem-solving skills. And at the same time we also need to give them every opportunity to succeed.

Here the Institute has shown its flair as a place of innovation. No other technological university offers such a robust array of programs and activities for its students to grow as human beings and begin to learn leadership skills. Consider our study abroad programs, which now rank among the top in the nation in terms of numbers of students participating.

After a slight dip in reaction to the terrorist attacks and SARS, the number of study abroad students increased by 14 percent last year. By the time our students graduate, about one-third of them have participated in an international education program at some point in their undergraduate careers.

One group of faculty and students from civil and environmental engineering traveled to Angola to survey and provide advice on the immense infrastructure and environmental problems caused by 30 years of war. Another group of 13 graduate students and three professors from Tech’s city and regional planning program in the College of Architecture went to Ecuador to discuss and offer advice on the problem of urban sprawl. Sharing our knowledge to help others achieve their hopes is a mark that differentiates Georgia Tech from the typical technological university.

An important aspect of innovation is that it is interdisciplinary, and we have worked hard to develop this as a central characteristic of Georgia Tech’s personality.

As technology becomes increasingly ubiquitous, demand is growing for scientists and engineers who understand the broader social and cultural ramifications of their work and for practitioners in a wide range of other disciplines who understand technology.

We also excel in running against the academic grain by creating spaces between the disciplines where people and ideas can thrive. The Ivan Allen College has taken advantage of our interdisciplinary climate to create the McEver Program for Engineering and the Liberal Arts. A recent McEver seminar examined the intersection of engineering and the arts in the human body. The Goliard Music Ensemble spent an evening with the seminar group exploring the use of technology in the form of musical instruments to create artistic expression and meaning.

Over the past five years, the School of Modern Languages created 61 new courses, many of them taught in the language of their class taught, launched two interdisciplinary degrees and developed an innovative international internship program. And we were proud to have their accomplishments recognized by the Board of Regents.

TEGER stands for Technological Innovation: Generating Economic Results. This program, based in the College of Management, is both an interdisciplinary and an interuniversity endeavor. It brings together students in management, law, science and engineering from Georgia Tech and Emory University to study the challenges of commercializing new technologies and marketing innovative products.

Georgia Tech is also a leader in creating interdisciplinary professional master’s degree programs, which are encouraged by several national organizations as a way to strengthen America’s scientific workforce and broaden the appeal of science and technology to students who are not interested in academic careers. We now have four of these degree programs and lead the nation in this effort.

Teamwork is an important skill in an interconnected, interdisciplinary world and we win accolades for our leadership in this space. The Georgia Tech and Emory students who competed in the idea-to-product competition were recognized by Stanford University with a top award. The Campus MovieFest is the world’s largest film festival in which student teams are provided with equipment and produce a five-minute film. And ARCH|Tech is a design program for middle school kids created by graduate students in the College of Architecture.

This flair for students who excel outside the classroom is nowhere better illustrated than by our remarkable student athletes. Our men’s basketball team became the first team from Georgia to play in the NCAA Division I-A championship game. The women’s volleyball team was the first ACC team to make it to the Elite Eight in the NCAA tournament. The golf team finished in the top five for the fourth time in the past five years. In all, 15 of our 17 Division I-A teams qualified for postseason play.

But at the same time the basketball team was making its amazing run through the brackets, five of its members were making the Dean’s List for spring semester. All together 45 percent of Tech’s student athletes are on the Dean’s List.

Our faculty are as outstanding as our students. Our young faculty won 13 National Science Foundation CAREER Awards over the past year. This brings the cumulative total of CAREER Awards won by Georgia Tech faculty to 96 — second highest in the nation. The PECASE Award is presented by President Bush and is relatively new. Julia Kubanek’s award is the fifth for Tech.

Our outstanding students and faculty are the primary reason Georgia Tech has been ranked among the nation’s top 10 public universities every year since 1999. Engineering remains among the top five programs in the nation, and we are beginning to see the payoff from the patient work done to strengthen our other colleges.

I am proud to be able to say that today essentially all of our programs at Georgia Tech from business, science, architecture and computer science are all ranked in the top 10 percent of their disciplines. And if you want to see a demonstration of our willingness to take a risk and offer a new direction for our students, look no further than our unique joint biomedical engineering department with Emory, which this year leapfrogged the competition to arrive at second place in the rankings in record time.

Innovation is global in nature, and as the world becomes more open and interconnected, opportunities are increasing for Georgia Tech to offer innovative solutions. As a result, we are stretching our learning environment to reach around the globe.

For starters, we have our own research and education platforms in Metz, France, and Singapore as well as a campus in Savannah. The international campuses began as graduate programs in engineering, but they are in the process of expanding. They are unique in offering students dual degrees with other prominent local universities and allowing their students the opportunity to come to Georgia Tech to finish their degrees. This past year over 120 students from France walked across the stage to receive a Georgia Tech degree.

Nanotechnology will literally touch every aspect of technology as it becomes more full-blown. Georgia Tech is applying its expertise in this new field to a

"I believe it is time for a statewide policy discussion about how public higher education will be funded in Georgia, particularly in view of the challenges that lay ahead. In the future, Atlanta and Georgia must be ready to compete for technology industry not with adjacent states, but with Shanghai, Bangalore and Moscow. To do any less is to cede the best jobs to others."

TECHTOPICS | WINTER 2004
Technology Square is an innovative development on many levels, not only gathering our business education and service programs in one location in the heart of Midtown Atlanta’s growing high-tech neighborhood, but also providing that “university village” setting of retail shops and restaurants that our campus has lacked for so long. To date, it has won 12 regional and national awards, and more are yet to come.

Add in the newly opened Campus Recreation Center and the Stamps Student Center Commons and you can see a significant improvement in the facilities that support campus life.

The Fifth Street Bridge that connects the main part of campus to Technology Square is presently one of our biggest eyesores. But using a plan developed with Georgia Tech, the Department of Transportation is going to transform that bridge so that going to Technology Square will become a walk in the park. They will do half of the bridge at a time so that the bridge can stay open. That will take longer, but the result will be worth the wait. It represents yet another example of expanding our innovative thinking, from our workplace activities to those that affect our lives visually and aesthetically.

We are challenged by the need to maintain excellence in the face of uncertain state resources. We are proud and shape a healthier, more sustainable and more prosperous future for all of the inhabitants of this world of ours.
President Taps Clough for Science Policy Post

President George W. Bush has nominated Georgia Tech President Wayne Clough to serve as a member of the National Science Board, a 24-member policy body that oversees the National Science Foundation and provides advice to the president and Congress on critical issues related to science and engineering.

Clough will be the second Georgia Tech president to serve on the board, with Joseph M. Pettit serving on the board from 1976 to 1982. He will be one of five engineers and the only civil engineer.

If approved, his term will expire May 10, 2010.

In 2001, Bush appointed Clough to the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology. If his latest nomination is approved, Clough will be the only individual to serve on both PCAST and the National Science Board.

Chameau Wins Leadership Honor

Jean-Lou Chameau, provost and vice president for academic affairs at Georgia Tech, has received the 2004 Distinguished Rodney D. Chipp Memorial Award from the Society of Women Engineers.

The award was presented Oct. 15 and recognizes Chameau for his “exemplary commitment and sustained leadership in the recruitment, retention and advancement of women engineering students and faculty.”

Jean-Lou Chameau’s commitment to advancing women in engineering is demonstrated by his remarkable achievements in the hiring and promotion of women engineering faculty,” said Don Giddens, dean of the College of Engineering.

Clough Receives Lifetime Award

President Wayne Clough has been awarded a distinguished engineering alumni Lifetime Award from the College of Engineering at the University of California at Berkeley.

Clough, CE 63, MS CE 65, received his PhD in civil engineering from Berkeley in 1969. He has been a member of the faculty at Duke and Stanford universities, dean of the College of Engineering at Virginia Tech and provost and vice president for academic affairs at the University of Washington.

In 1990, Clough was elected to the National Academy of Engineering. He has received eight national awards from the American Society of Civil Engineers for his teaching and research, including the 2004 Outstanding Projects and Leaders Award for Lifetime Achievement.
U.S. News Ranks Tech Among Best

Georgia Tech ranks as one of the top 10 public universities in the nation for the sixth consecutive year and the eighth time in the past decade, according to U.S. News & World Report rankings. In the 2005 release of “America’s Best Colleges,” Georgia Tech is placed at 41st among all universities, public and private.

The School of Industrial and Systems Engineering retains the No. 1 position for the 14th consecutive year. In addition, every program in the College of Engineering was ranked in the top 15, with three others also ranked among the top five in the country.

Ovarian Cancer Institute Relocates to Tech

When Georgia Tech hired geneticist John McDonald as chair of the School of Biology, he brought the Ovarian Cancer Institute with him. The institute’s new home on the Tech campus officially opened Sept. 8 and is the center of research for the sixth consecutive year. According to the eighth time in the past decade, the institute for the nation’s top 15. For the second consecutive year, Tech’s co-op program was ranked as one of 11 “Academic Programs to Look For” under internships and co-ops.

Tech’s peer assessment — the school’s perceived quality among other universities — placed it in the top 25 of all universities with a score of 4.0. But variables like faculty resources, class size and faculty-to-student ratios pushed Tech into lower rankings.

“We’ve done an excellent job maintaining our overall position in a difficult environment,” Clough said. “We’re one of the top research universities in the nation with a consistently outstanding engineering program and a business school that is on the move. For the first time ever, we have three business programs ranked in the top 15. That shows considerable progress in a very competitive arena.”

Another top ranking for Tech is the generosity of alumni donations. The percentage of Tech alumni giving to the Institute is the highest among any public university in the top 50.

“I think that says a lot about this institution and our graduates,” Clough, the first Tech alumnus to become president, said. “They feel good about what they learned here. They’ve been successful in their professional lives. And they believe in the vision we have for the future of Georgia Tech. We’ve done some amazing things with their financial, professional and emotional support, and we wouldn’t be where we are without our impressive alumni base.”

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John McDonald heads the Ovarian Cancer Institute at Georgia Tech.

GARY MECK
‘Great Learning Experience’
Mac Nease still paying a 40-year debt

He knows it’s an often-expressed sentiment, but Lawton M. “Mac” Nease III can’t help himself from saying it. He gives a tremendous amount of time to Tech because he feels he owes something to the Institute. By Gary Goettling

“Georgia Tech taught me how to work and how to think,” explained Nease, who earned an industrial management degree in 1965. “It taught me that I was responsible for my own success or failure. It was a great learning experience — and an endurance contest.

“I’m sure college changes everyone’s lives. Georgia Tech certainly changed mine, and I feel a huge sense of indebtedness.”

Huge indeed.
Nease has been paying off that debt for nearly 40 years.

The Effingham County native is serving a second four-year term on the board of the Georgia Tech Foundation, where he chairs the investment committee and is a member of the executive committee.

Previously he headed the real estate committee and chaired the Technology Square project. He has served on numerous foundation sub-committees as well as campus groups such as a search committee for a management college dean.

A life member of the Alexander-Tharpe Fund, he served two terms on the its board.

Nease’s participation in Roll Call spans four decades. He is a member of the annual fund-raising drive’s Bundell Society and co-chaired the 37th Roll Call. He served on the Alumni Association Board of Trustees for five years, culminating in his election as president for 1987-88. Last March, Nease was awarded the Joseph Mayo Petit Alumni Distinguished Service Award at the Gold & White Honors Ceremony.

The award is the highest recognition presented by the Alumni Association.

“Oh, my family and my business, I spend more time with Georgia Tech matters than anything else,” Nease laughed. “But it’s worth it.”

Nease said that the attraction for his Tech involvement includes the opportunity to make a tangible difference.

“Tech’s committees are structured in a way that allows you to make a real contribution,” he said. “I feel good about the contributions I make and feel that the time I spend is appreciated.”

There’s a social benefit to Nease’s long-standing involvement with the Foundation and the Alumni Association that started when he was a student.

“It’s a pleasure working with Tech alumni,” he said.

“Anytime I’ve called someone to ask for something concerning Georgia Tech, I’ve received a positive response. Everybody’s always willing to help, to do whatever they can. It’s a great group to be part of.

“I have long-time, close friendships that started at Tech, and I’m close to these people to this day.” Nease said.

Perhaps the ultimate example of Nease giving back to Georgia Tech began in 1987, when he and his wife, Brenda, established a scholarship fund for students from their alma mater, Effingham County High School.

“Very few people from that county went to Georgia Tech, so we set up a needs-based scholarship to encourage students to attend Georgia Tech,” Nease explained. More than 30 scholarships have been awarded so far.

To have made a contribution to the lives of 30-plus students is special to Brenda and me because both of our families still live in the area, so we know many of these students and their families,” he added. “I think this scholarship has been one of the most rewarding things I’ve done at Georgia Tech.”

In addition to his postgraduate “career” at Tech, Nease is president of Nease, Laguna, Eden & Culley Inc., an Atlanta-based firm specializing in life insurance planning for business owners and professionals in both public and private sectors throughout the country.

His areas of expertise include executive compensation, business continuity and advanced estate planning. Nease is a national spokesman for the insurance industry regarding tax matters and serves on the advisory boards of several major life insurance companies.

In addition to his Tech degree, Nease earned an MBA and PhD in business and financial planning from Georgia State University and the chartered life underwriter designation from the American College.

He has also served as an adjunct professor in the graduate school of business at Georgia State University, where he taught courses in business insurance and estate planning, and as senior editor of the Journal of Financial Service Professionals.

A member of the Million Dollar Round Table and Top of the Table, Nease is a registered representative with M Holdings Securities.

He is a past national president of the Association for Advanced Life Underwriting. He is a past regional vice president of the Society of Financial Service Professionals, past president of the Atlanta chapter of Society of Financial Service Professionals and past president of the Atlanta Estate Planning Council. Nease presently chairs the executive committee of the board of M Holdings Inc.

His numerous civic activities include membership on the boards of the educational foundation at Georgia State University and Peachtree Road United Methodist Church pastoral counseling.
Reunion Record

Milestone classes raise a whopping $16.7 million

Reunion classes raised a record amount for Georgia Tech in honor of their milestone marks.


Garry Betty, ChE ’79, was chairman of the Class of 1979 25th reunion fund committee, which raised a 25th reunion-record total of more than $9.4 million. Of that total $125,000 is slated for the Class of 1979 Need-based Scholarship.

“I am very proud of our fund-raising committee. We had 100 percent participation from everyone on the committee,” Betty said. “The Class of 1979 was very fortunate to raise such a large sum of money as a few alums were in a position to make a large gift to the school. We have created a milestone that future classes can now try and exceed.”

Johnny Hunsinger, IE ’54, MS IE ’55, chairman of the Class of 1954 50th Reunion Fund Committee, was “delighted” with the collection of $2,468,748. Of that total, $250,000 will be used to establish the Class of 1954 Need-based Scholarship.

“We worked hard on it. We stretched a lot to select a goal of $1,954,000, but wonderful things happened and we exceeded it. A lot of people got into the swing of it and realized our 50th reunion is an important epic for us. We are glad to be alive and to be at our reunion, so we might as well give. All of us stretched and did a little bit more.”

Hunsinger said he and his classmates are impressed by the leadership shown by President Wayne Clough and the wide range of research being pursued at Tech.

“We have some very sincere people who really appreciate Tech and a lot of people were willing to stretch a little to show that appreciation. They were all willing to do something that pushed the envelope and we really are grateful for the effort the class gave,” Hunsinger said.

“Wayne Clough is so far ahead of most presidents leading engineering colleges around the country and the things he is doing are going to be carrying us into the future. It is wonderful to know Georgia Tech is out there in the front and it is very exciting to have a presence in helping with that.”

The 40th reunion class of 1964 raised $4,752,227, double its goal, including an endowment of $67,000 for the Class of 1964 President’s Scholarship.
Advising Ecuador

Tech team assists city planners

By David Pendered

In the coast of Ecuador, a team of Georgia Tech students and professors has devised a plan for managing growth in a sprawling region that is surprisingly similar to metro Atlanta.

Tech’s urban planners are renowned for helping Georgia communities plan for new houses and shops. This was their first professional venture to another country, and Ecuador presented conditions that harkened back to home.

“To me it was like working with Newton County and Covington and Barrow County with the study for the possible passenger rail line,” said Randal Roark, a professor of architecture and city planning who came out of retirement for the Ecuador project.

A Tech graduate who hails from the Ecuadorian region that was studied and who initiated the team’s involvement drew a broader comparison of Atlanta and her native city of Guayaquil.

“In both places you have the city center that was neglected,” said Ana Maria Leon M Arch 99, who now teaches architecture at a local university. “Crime, security issues and a lack of trust in the local government caused people to move from the center to (suburban) communities where things are privatized. And both cities have been affected by fire — Atlanta was burned in the Civil War and Guayaquil was burned down repeatedly by pirates in the 1530s.”

Guayaquil is Ecuador’s major port and largest metro area with almost 3 million residents. After years of crime and decay, it is a few years into an urban revival. The growing number of tourists to trendy restaurants near the Guayas River enjoy a native dish of rice with lentils.

But the future of that dish is threatened by the creation of gated enclaves just outside Guayaquil in the rich coastal plain where rice is grown. The paddies are being paved.

City residents grew weary of chronic crime and a government that seemed to take their taxes and provide few services. About a decade ago, Leon said, the market responded by building suburban gated communities up the river from Guayaquil. The land was so raw and remote that developers had to build a sewer plant to serve each community in the canton, or county, of Samborondon.

Samborondon’s top elected official, Jose Yunez, decided the sprawl had to be curbed. His motives may be mixed. On one hand, Yunez owns a rice processing plant in Samborondon. He also is portrayed as a responsible leader who realized the growth should be managed to protect the traditional agrarian lifestyle while harnessing the increasing tax base.

Yunez convened a meeting last year to talk about the growth. Leon attended and suggested the best way to wash local politics out of any plan was to have it done by academics, not planners working for the government or private sector.

Leon contacted Georgia Tech and proposed a joint venture involving the Institute, her college and Samborondon. Samborondon signed a contract to pay for a study that would involve 13 of Tech’s graduate students and three professors, plus eight of Leon’s top undergraduate students and a second professor from the Universidad de Especialidades Espiritu Santo.

The Ecuadoreans completed a field study last fall, and the team from Tech made a quick visit in December, followed by a 10-day excursion in March. During the spring trip, Roark, the lead person from Tech, coordinated discussions to get opinions from area politicians and developers.

Students from the two schools ran breakout groups to gather feedback on various proposals.

Language barriers were minimized because Tech’s group included several students who are native Spanish speakers. Both Leon and Roark said the collaborative tone was set when the students’ first experience together involved a canoe trip through their study area.

The process seems to have been a success. The local government this summer adopted the guidelines in a preliminary report, and Leon expects the full report to be OK’d after Yunez’s expected re-election.

The proposal would look familiar to anyone in metro Atlanta who has attended a meeting on long-range community planning.

It calls for cutting sprawl in the rice fields by creating denser development in five towns, each with about 15,000 residents living near a town center with mixed-use developments.

A proposed parkway along the river would create a linear park. Two environmentally fragile areas would be protected for potential ecotourism projects.

One developer who backs the plan is Ivan Baquerizo, whose family is one of the nation’s largest builders of residences, offices, retail shops and warehouses.

He said the report has widespread support partly because Tech ensured that everyone with an interest had a chance to join the planning process.

“They were very good at listening to what all the people would suggest and considering all the suggestions, never discarding any ideas,” Baquerizo said. “They were excellent at managing the different interests.”

David Pendered is a staff writer with the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Copyright 2004 by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, reproduced with permission.
The Ramblin’ Roll

1950s


Charlie Hays, IE 57, retired as a “runner” for Zachery Construction Co. in Jacksonville, Fla., and moved to Suwannee River near Live Oak, Fla., in 2003. Previously, Hays was a mechanical systems design/build manager for New Research Laboratory at B&K Tobacco Co. in Macon, Ga.

W. John Lee, Che 59, MS CHE 61, PhD 62, was honored by the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers with the DugOyler Distinguished Service Medal in October. Lee is a professor and holder of the L.F. Peterson chair in the Harold Vance Department of Petroleum Engineering at the University of Oklahoma. He was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 1993, to Georgia Tech’s Distinguished Engineering Alumni in 1994 and to the Texas Society of Professional Engineers’ Texas Engineering Dream Team in 2001. He and his wife, Phyllis, live in College Station, Texas.

Richard I. Lovendes III, AE 58, AE 60, won the 2004 Outstanding Engineer of the Year award from the Tullahoma chapter of the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers. He owns and operates an engineering services firm in Tullahoma, where he lives with his wife, Laura. Lovendes was a Georgia Tech assistant professor of aircraft structures from 1958 to 1961. He earned his PhD in civil engineering from Vanderbilt.

1960s

Glenn Ashe, EE 69, has been appointed vice president of government operations for the American Bureau of Shipping’s Americas division. Ashe has advanced degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in naval architecture and marine and ocean engineering. He served in the U.S. Navy, both active duty and the Naval Reserve, as well as at private naval architectural design firms before joining ABS in 1990.

Gayton R. Paul, MS EE 65, is the recipient of the 2005 Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers’ Electromagnetics Award. The award, which consists of a bronze medal, certificate and a $10,000 prize, will be given to Paul for his research on crosstalk problems between wires. Paul will be recognized during a ceremony at the 2005 IEEE International Symposium on Electromagnetic Compatibility, which will take place in Chicago during August. Paul is a professor emeritus of electrical engineering at the University of Kentucky, where he was a faculty member from 1971 to 1998. Paul joined the Mercer University School of Engineering in 1998 as the Sam Nonn eminent professor of aerospace engineering.

Edmond P. Roudeau, Arch 69, was recognized by the International Facility Management Association in October as a distinguished author for co-writing the book “The Facility Manager’s Guide to Finance & Budgeting.” Roudeau lives in Breton Circle, N.H.

Bill Swint, IE 69, was appointed interim president and chief executive officer of Cutter & Buck Inc. in August. Since joining Cutter & Buck in June 2003, Swint has been responsible for all aspects of production, customer service and distribution. Previously, Swint was president and chief executive officer of Vail Resorts. Industries, a marketing and manufacturing company. Swint received his MBA from Southern Methodist University. Swint lives in Seattle.

1970s

Jeff Barghurff, JM 79, senior vice president/marketing director for Nevada State Bank, was appointed to serve as a council member for the American Bankers Association Marketing Network. The eight-member council assesses critical industry trends, recommends strategic leadership direction and improves the marketing expertise of the financial services industry. Barghurff has an MBA from Emory University and has won more than 35 national marketing and advertising awards. Barghurff and his wife, Vicki, live in Henderson, Nev.

Francis E. Flegle II, CE 73, received the 2004 Engineer of the Year Award from the Georgia Society of Professional Engineers. Flegle is program manager of the safe dams program for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and oversees more than 450 high hazard dams in Georgia. His program has been recognized as one of the best in the nation. Flegle is the current president of the Georgia Society of Professional Engineers. He lives in Franklin, Ga.

John H. Miller II, CE 75, MS CE 76, a captain in the Naval Reserve, has become commander of the 3rd Naval Construction Regiment, headquartered in Marietta, Ga. A reservist with 24 years of service, Miller recently received the Legion of Merit medal for his tour as chief of staff at the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Contingency Engineering Group. Miller is a senior engineer for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington, D.C. He and his wife of 31 years, Jane, live in Vienna, Va., with their daughter and son.

Andrés Núñez, CE 75, MS CE 77, is now the vice president and Southeast division leader of intelligent transportation systems for the HNTB Companies. Núñez co-founded TEI, a Florida-based transportation engineering and planning firm that was recently acquired by HNTB. Núñez lives in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Eric G. Olsen, Math 73, and his wife, Diana, announce the birth of their son, Eric Alejandro, on May 6. Olsen is a civil trial lawyer practicing in Jensen Beach, Fla.

Ronald L. O’Rear, EE 70, has been promoted to vice president for operations in the operational intelligence solutions business unit of Science Applications International Corp. O’Rear, his wife, Suzanne, and his daughter, Laura, live in Beaver Creek, Ohio.

Robert Paul Sherwood, Che 74, has enrolled at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Ga., and completed a summer intensive course in biblical Greek. Sherwood lives in Marietta, Ga.

1980s

Doug Betts, ME 86, was named vice president of product quality for Nissan North America, which is based in Smyrna, Tenn., in September. Betts will be responsible for the quality of all Nissan and Infiniti vehicles manufactured in North America. Previously, Betts was the general manager of quality for Toyota motor manufacturing in Princeton, Ind. Betts is a resident of Newburgh, Ind.

Rodney Bogue, BC 88, and his wife, Sandy, announce the birth of a daughter, Riley Jordan-Michelle, on July 16. Bogue is a general manager for SteelSouth Buildings Inc. The family lives in Warner Robins, Ga.

Jon Brock, ISC 83, and his wife, Sheila, announce the birth of their first child, Josselyn Elise, on Jan. 10. Brock is a systems programmer for the Greenville Hospital System in Greenville, S.C.

Richard Cobleens, EE 87, and Janet Lang were married Nov. 13 in Simpsonville, S.C.

Amir Ghanad, ME 85, has accepted a position as eastern region plant manager for the Sunny Delight Beverages Co., which was recently divested from Procter & Gamble. Ghanad is responsible for the plants in Atlanta and South Brunswick, N.J. He and his wife, Connie, and children, Naved and Naseem, are relocating from Germany to Atlanta. Previously, Ghanad worked for almost 19 years with Procter & Gamble in various locations.

Joseph C. Klewicki, ME 85, has been named a fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. Klewicki has been at the University of Utah since 1990 and has conducted research in the area of fluids mechanics, unsteady flows, vortexity dynamics, mixing, experimental methods and turbulent boundary layers. Klewicki received his doctoral and master’s degrees in mechanical engineering from Michigan State University.

Claire L. Barnes McCullough, MS EE 81, was awarded tenure and promoted to full professor at the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga in June.

McCullough is an electrical engineering professor and lives in Ringgold, Ga.

Steven McPherson, Che 84, was promoted to plant manager at Finscher USA’s sodium chloride plant in Augusta, Ga., where he lives.

Steve Notamico, MgrSc 86, earned an MBA from Penn State University in August. Notamico is a military operations analyst for Lockheed Martin Corp. in Suffolk, Va., and resides with his wife, Dorothy, and two sons, Mitch and Jack, in Richmond, Va.

Brett Peters, MS IE 88, PhD 92, has been named head of the department of industrial engineering at Texas A&M University. Peters joined Texas A&M in 1992 as an assistant professor of industrial engineering. His research interests include design, analysis, operation and control of manufacturing systems. He lives in College Station, Texas.

Holger Pfeifer, NE 88, MS NE 89, PhD 97, and Jennifer Page Pfeifer, ME 90, announce the birth of their second child, Ryan Tomes Pfeifer, on June 1. Ryan joins brother Christopher, 4, at the family’s home in Duluth, Ga. Holger is manager of nuclear analysis with NAC International in Norcross, Jennifer is business manager of the Ramblin’ Roll.

Jeff Barghurff

The Ramblin’ Roll

writer's editor
A monthly salary of $125 isn’t an enticing prospect for a recent Georgia Tech graduate, but the chance to make a difference in the lives of the children in an African village got Harry Lee “Hap” Richardson IV into the Peace Corps. By Maria M. Lameiras

“After I graduated from Tech, I really wanted to find something that would combine adventure, altruism and traveling,” said Richardson, Bied 02.

A little over a year into his two-year stint teaching science, math, English and democracy at a remote village in the southern African nation of Malawi, Richardson persuaded his Phi Gamma Delta fraternity brother Ryan Ott, Mgt 00, to visit.

Ott quit his job as an information technology consultant to spend three months in Africa, two traveling and the other working in the village with Richardson.

“He and I volunteered as coaches for a middle school basketball team while we were at Tech, so we decided to build a basketball goal and teach the kids how to play. I brought the rim and the ball with me in my luggage and we built the rest,” Ott said.

Before starting the project, Richardson and Ott had to meet with various village leaders in order to get approval for the project, obtain materials and arrange for help with labor.

“Before I left America, Hap sent me an e-mail that basically said, ‘Slow down. Nothing happens fast in Africa,’” Ott said. “The American way of ‘go, go, go, fast, fast, fast’ is not even comprehensible there. It is not their way of doing things. They don’t look at a clock to tell the time, they look at the sun. It is really a cool way to live, but it takes getting used to. People are much more patient there.”

Richardson, who had more time to become accustomed to the way things worked in the village, got a kick out of watching his friend negotiate the logistics of the projects with the village leaders.

“It was really funny to see Ryan interact with the village leaders. Ryan’s a corporate guy, and Chief Mitemo, who means ‘chief of the trees,’ is not. Both sides were excited and wanted to help, but it took a little while to help them to understand each other’s method of getting things done,” Richardson said.

During every stage, from preparing the plot set aside for the court to erecting the goal to teaching the village children to play, Richardson and Ott did their best to involve as many villagers as possible.

“We wanted them all to be a part of the project. We wanted them to have a sense of ownership of something that was new to a village where nothing ever changes,” Ott said.

Richardson added, “Everybody in the village was in love with the project from the start. There are very few new projects that come to my village. Even if some of the people we dealt with had never even seen a basketball goal, they wanted one.”

Although Ott left the village after a month, Richardson said he has been able to enjoy the fruits of building the court. “For the community, it has provided a source of entertainment, a distraction from day-to-day life in a small rural African village and a source of pride,” he said.

“For the kids, the basketball court has become the cool place to hang out after school. It is really neat to watch my students goof off, tease each other and just have a lot of fun. The basketball goal has been a great chance for them to learn something new and forget about all their problems for a while.

“The adults love to tell their friends that their village now has a basketball goal. It has been really fun for me to watch them take such pride and ownership in the goal. It has its own security guard to make sure nobody takes the goal and uses it for firewood,” Richardson said.

In addition to helping build the basketball goal and teach the game, Ott taught English in the village school, which also educates children from the outlying areas.

“Teaching the children English was the hardest part. English is their official language, but it is not their first language. Their first language is a tribal language called Chichewa and when they go to school they start speaking English,” Ott said. “When I started Hap told me I would have to speak slowly and the first day I went in and I thought I was talking slowly, but afterward one of the students who was the best English speaker in the group told me he had only picked up bits and pieces of what I had said and that I needed to slow down.”

Because he only had about three weeks of classroom time with the students, Ott decided to teach them the basics of writing an essay.

“I wanted to learn from them about what they like to do so I asked them to write about their three favorite and three least favorite things about Malawi,” Ott said. “That’s where I realized people are all the same. Everyone talked about the weather and food and that kind of stuff.”

Harder to grasp was the level of poverty at which the average person lives, he said.

“This is the first generation of Malawians to get free education. Malawi is one of the five poorest nations in the world and, previously, they had to pay for education, so only a small percentage of the population went to school. Many of the adults and certainly the teachers have seen films and pictures and they know where they stand, but our idea of needs and their idea of needs are totally different,” Ott said. “If one of them asks how much your shoes cost, the answer may be as much as they make in a year. Hap makes $125 a month there, but it is somewhat relative because you can go and buy a bag of sugar for 7 cents. It is a completely different economic system.”

Ott said he was astounded at the friendliness and hospitality of the villagers.

“In any guide or travel book on Malawi, the first paragraph always said Malawians are considered among the most friendly people on the planet Earth, but it was remarkable how embracing and welcoming they are,” he said.

“When I arrived they all wanted to bring me to eat in their huts. Their diet is 90 percent corn flour and water boiled down to dough. Once in a blue moon they might have meat and they all wanted to kill a chicken for me.”

Ott knows his month in Africa will not make much difference to the people there, but he knows the efforts of Richardson and others like him will have an impact on future Malawians.

“One of the young men I spent time with in the village was a 17- or 18-year-old high school student named Nicholas. I asked him what he wanted to do and he said he wanted to become a medical assistant. He is extremely smart and his English is superb. Hap said he had a very high work ethic and was constantly reading anything that came from America or that was in English,” Ott said.

“I asked Hap what he thought about Nicholas’ aspirations and he said that because his family cannot afford to send him to college, he will probably have to stay home and be a farmer. These kids don’t have choices yet.

“This is the first generation to be educated, but they are going home to parents who are not educated. They are learning more and getting a more global perspective. They are beginning to understand democracy and they do prefer democracy and freedom to the dictatorship they lived under before, but it will take three to four generations to sink in,” Ott said. “It has to start somewhere.”
Janet N. Goolsby, MS ME 90, PhD 83, has been named a fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. Saigal is a professor and chair of the mechanical engineering department at Tufts University in Medford, Mass. Saigal has been on the Tufts faculty since 1983 and is an expert in the fields of materials engineering and manufacturing processes. Saigal is involved in research at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the National Institute of Standards Technology and Argonne National Lab. He lives in Burlington, Mass.

Patty Schwartz, IM 88, and David Schmitt, EE 87, announce the birth of a son, Justin Patrick, on June 11. Justin joins brothers Ryan and Ethan at the family's home in Alpharetta, Ga. David is a marketing consultant and Patty is a full-time mother.

Christie J. Shackelford, Phys 88, MS Phys 90, and Martin M. Jarrio, Phys 89, announce the birth of their twin daughters, Juliana Epiphany and Stella Elizabeth, on July 31 in Tallulah Falls, Ga. Martin is a faculty member in the Georgia Tech School of Physics and Christie is enrolled in Georgia Tech's master's degree program in physical medicine. The couple live in Atlanta.

Wayne Smith, CE 80, has established a DWhsmith Design Group Inc., a land planning, civil engineering and landscape architecture firm. Smith lives in McDonough, Ga.

Omid Taherian, MS EE 83, has been named vice president and general manager of the digital signal processing division of Xilinx Inc. Previously, Taherian worked for Motorola for more than 20 years and holds 13 patents in wireless and mobile systems development. He will be responsible for broadening the reach of Xilinx’s signal-processing segment and developing the company’s next-generation DSP solutions. Taherian lives in San Jose, Calif.

Michele Watkins, Text 87, was promoted to central inventory management specialist at Domino’s Pizza. She will procure items for distribution centers in Colorado and Illinois. Watkins was honored with the “Golden Spoodle” for completing Domino’s Pizza Prep School in July. She lives in Ypsialti, Mich.

Daniel Wilkins, CE 83, has been promoted to project manager with Collins Engineers Inc. in Savannah, Ga., where he lives.

Chung Youl Yoo, ID 87, M Arch 88, and Jan Lorenz, M Arch 94, the founders of Lorenz+Yoo Design, were featured in Graphic Design USA magazine in January as part of “People to Watch in 2004: Insights from the Best and the Brightest.” Lorenz+Yoo clients include the Mayo Clinic, Coca-Cola North Carolina State University, Georgia-Pacific, Hixworth Furniture Co., Bank of America, General Mills and Sony-Ericsson.

1990s

Kelly Ingleson Acree. Mgt 92, and her husband, Micah, announce the birth of their second daughter, Tessa Grace, on May 27. Tessa joins sister Ansley, 2, at the family’s home in Tarpon Springs, Fla. Kelly is a full-time mother.


Christopher K. Annunziata. IntA 93, joined the Atlanta office of Lord Bissell and Brook law firm as a litigation associate in August. He practices in civil litigation, including insuring coverage litigation and bad faith claims, business litigation and product liability claims. Annunziata lives in Atlanta.

Dan Bell. MS EE 98, is a full-time PhD electrical and biomedical engineering student at Florida State University. He expects to graduate in August 2005 and is a senior engineer for Motorola. Bell earned his MBA at Nova Southeastern University in 2001. He lives in Tallahassee, Fla.

Sherry Benenheldy, ME 92, is attending Indiana University-Purdue School in Indianapolis. She lives in Greenwood, Ind.

J. Troy Blake, ME 93, and his wife, Julie, announce the birth of a daughter, Ella Alicia, on July 12. Ella joins sister Erin, 3, at the family’s home in Columbus, S.C.

Gary M. Butler. EE 91, MS Mgt 93, and Julie Doris Butler. IntA 93, MS PubPol 95, announce the birth of their son, Michael Josiah, on July 16. Michael joins sister Anna, 3, at the family’s home in Sharpsburg, Ga.

Christa Corden. EE 93, and her wife, Mandi, announce the birth of twins, Andrew Taylor and Meredith Alicia, on June 29. Colin is the CFI manager for Temple Inland. The family lives in Augusta, Ga.

Brian Cardoze. IE 96, and Aimee Teate Cardoza, IntA 97, announce the birth of a daughter, Arlesy Wade, on July 17. Brian is president and CEO of the Fayette County Development Authority and Aimee is an outreach manager for the Georgia Tech Advanced Technology Development Center. The family lives in Fayetteville, Ga.

James A. Carter. EE 91, and Christa Head Carter. EE 91, announce the birth of a son, Srumuel James, on Aug. 30. Samuel joins brother Louis, 3, at the family’s home in Thomasville, Ga. Jim, who earned an MBA from Georgia State University in 2000 and a master of health administration in 2001, is director of the ambulatory care center and surgery at John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital in Thomasville.

Christa is a full-time mother.

Andrew Christian. IE 93, MS Stat 94, and Dana Coleman Christian. Biol 93, announce the birth of a son, Aidan Coleman, on July 16. Andrew works for BellSouth and Dana works for Emory Healthcare. The family lives in Atlanta.

Lauren B. Cook. Mgt 92, and her husband, Henry, announce the birth of a son, Henry McHanley III, on Feb. 12. Henry joins his sister, Katie, at the family’s home in Mount Pleasant, S.C. Laurel is a credit adviser in wealth management at Wachovia Bank.

Stephen Edmonds. EE 92, and his wife, Vanessa, announce the birth of a son, Max Owen, on July 22. Max joins brother Benjamin, 2, at the family’s home in Kennesaw, Ga. Edmonds is chief technology officer for Operational Security Systems in Atlanta.

Katie Dickinson ElHamahmy, IE 95, and her husband, Sonny, announce the birth of a daughter, Abigail Claire, on April 21. She joins brother Alex and sister Sarah Kate at the family home in Dunwoody, Ga. ElHamahmy is a full-time mother.

J. Clay Fowler. Econ 92, is vice president and administrator for Parkridge Surgery Center with Palmetto Health in Columbia, S.C.

Gary Garner. EE 91, received a senior receiver operator license from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and was promoted to nuclear unit supervisor in July. Garner lives in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Brent S. Goosby. IE 92, and Janet M. Goosby. EE 92, announce the birth of a daughter, Lauren Alanna, on Sept. 26. Anna joins her sisters, Alexis and Ashlyn, at the family’s home in Marietta, Ga.

Devon K. Grant. EE 97, has joined the Needle & Rosenberg firm as an associate. He will practice in the firm’s electronics/software patent group, which prosecutes patent applications in all areas of software, Internet and electronics communication technology for corporate, university and government clients. Grant lives in Decatur, Ga.

Ian Gray. Econ 95, and Anne Cauley Gray. Math 96, announce the birth of a daughter, Bridget Clare, on May 26. Bridge joins brother Conner Patrick, 5, and sister Nina Marie, 2, at the family’s home in Vienna, Va. Ian is a senior economist with Economic Consulting Services in Washington, D.C. and Anne is a full-time mother and an active volunteer.

Bradley Charles Gregory. ChE 99, received a master’s degree in religion from Westminster Theological Seminary on May 27.

John David Hanna. ME 90, was promoted to senior resident inspector of Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in August.

Hanna lives in Omaha, Neb.

Jason Hill. Mgt 94, was elected to the Rockdale County Board of Commissioners in the Republican primary election. Hill and his wife, Andrea Graham, ChE 99, live in Conyers, Ga., where Jason works for Still Lumber Co., a family-owned business, and Andrea manages capital planning for Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc.

Brandon Johnson. CmpE 98, and Denise DeLary, Arch 00, were married Oct. 16. Johnson is a software engineer at Radiant Systems in Alpharetta, Ga., and Denise is pursuing her master’s degree in architecture at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. The couple live in Atlanta.

Tom Johnson. Mgt 93, and Beth Isom were married March 27 at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church in Atlanta. Johnson is a sales manager at the Brown-Forman Corp. The couple live in Atlanta.

Daniel R. Karolyi. Chem 96, MS ME 02, PhD 02, received his medical degree from the Medical College of Georgia in May and began his radiology residency at Emory University Hospital in June. Karolyi lives in Stone Mountain, Ga.


Misti Smith King. CE 99, and Geoffrey King. EE 99, announce the birth of their first child, Mackenzie Rose, on April 8. Misti is an estimate manager for Traton Homes in Marietta, Ga., and Geoffrey is a senior developer for Webtoobet Inc. in Atlanta. The family lives in Canton, Ga.

Sandy Knight. EE 93, and her husband, Joel,
Announce the birth of a son, Luke Christopher, on July 7. The family lives in Austin, Texas. 

Brian Loome, AF 92, MS ME 94, a project finance analyst for GM Powertrain in Pontiac, Mich., has been selected to participate in the company’s treasury internship program in New York City.

Jan Lorenz, M Arch 94, and Chung Yool Yoo, ID 87, M Arch 98, founders of Lorenz+Yoo Design, were featured in Graphic Design USA magazine in January as part of “People to Watch in 2004: Insights from the Best and the Brightest.” Lorenz+Yoo clients include the Mayo Clinic, Coca-Cola, North Carolina State University, Georgia-Pacific, Hasworth Furniture Co., Bank of America, General Mills and Sony-Ericsson.

J. Mark Lowman, MS IntA 99, president of Diligens Logistics Services, has begun marketing the company’s technology services to clients in the public sector. Lowman, a U.S. Army veteran and a former consultant for Booz Allen Hamilton, previously marketed exclusively to military clients. Diligens, which is headquartered in Marietta, Ga., is listed with the Small Business Administration as a service-disabled veteran-owned small business. Lowman lives in Marietta.

Stephen D. Moon, Arch 93, has joined Morton Gruber Architects as senior project manager. He was also the winner of the 2004 ArchVoices international essay competition. He and his wife, Victoria, have a son, Max, who was born in 2003.

Daniel Moore, CmpE 98, and Mollie Wilson were married June 5. Moore is a design engineer at Lexmark International. The couple live in Lexington, Ky.

Bill Murphy, ME 91, and his wife, Virginia, announce the birth of a daughter, Julia Kellyn, on June 10. Julia joins brother Jonathan, 4, at their home in Boiling Springs, S.C. Murphy is a group maintenance project manager.

George R. Notel II, CS 96, has relocated to Beallton, Va., from Cumming, Ga., to work as the lead systems analyst for BAE Systems North America, a federal government contractor based in Herndon, Va.

Meredith J. Oliver, ChE 95, and Joseph L. Phelps III were married July 24. The couple live in Jesup, Ga.

Jennifer Page Pfeifer, ME 90, and Holger Pfeifer, NE 88, MS NE 89, PhD 97, announce the birth of their second child, Ryan Thomas, on June 1. Ryan joins brother Christopher, 4, at the family’s home in Duluth, Ga. Holger is manager of nuclear analysis with NAC International in Norcross. Jennifer is business development coordinator with Lockwood Greene in Atlanta.

Tom Rickard, CE 90, and Lisa Watson were married July 3 at Fort Lewis, Wash., where they are both currently stationed with the U.S. Army. Rickard, a major, was deployed to Iraq in September as a planner for the multinational brigade. The couple will live in Dupont, Wash.

Holly Mersereau Roberts, Mgt 97, and Matthew Roberts, IE 97, announce the birth of a son, Matthew “Reed” Jr., on May 28. Reed joins sister Anna, 2, at the family’s home in Atlanta. Holly is a full-time mother and Matt is a director for Manhattan Associates Inc.

Steve Rosser, CE 93, and his wife, Meredith, announce the birth of a son, John David, on Oct. 3. John joins brothers Andrew and Luke at the family’s home in Clermont, Fla. Rosser is a land acquisition manager with Ryland Homes.

Keith Rothwell, CE 96, was promoted to vice president of construction operations at Oxford Properties in Atlanta. He and his wife, Shelly Lisbon Rothwell, CE 95, live in Marietta, Ga., with their sons, Anderson and Garrett.

Kristie Price Rox, Math 96, and her husband, John, announce the birth of their first child, Samantha Lynn, on Aug. 17. Rox is an accountant at Lucent Technologies. The family lives in Suwanee, Ga.

Victoria Selfridge, IE 96, and Brian Blankenship, ME 98, were married Aug. 18 in Estes Park, Colo. Victoria is the manager of e-commerce at a Colorado credit union and Brian is the manager of design-for-test engineering at JCT International. The couple live in Colorado Springs.

Rebecca Via Simonsen, Biol 99, graduated from the University of Kentucky School of Medicine in May. She and her husband,
Steve Simonsen, ChE’97, MS EnV’99, an environmental consultant, lives in Memphis, Tenn.

Susan M. Klocok Smith, CE’97, has taken a position as an assistant city engineer with the city of Wheeling, W. Va. Smith and her husband, Melvin, live in Byron, Ga.

Kelly Krabe Spiggle, Int’lA’93, and Charles Spiggle, Mgt’02, announce the birth of a son, Jackson Chiles, on May 4. Jackson joins sister Caroline Elizabeth, 4, at the family’s home in New York City. Kelly is a full-time mother and Charles is a leverage finance investment banker with JP Morgan.

J. Scott Spinetto, IM’90, was named national sales manager for Chevron Texaco Global Lubricants in July. Spinetto leads a sales team that delivers lubricant products and services to Xpress Lubes, automotive shops and car dealer service centers around the nation. He and his wife, Lee Ann, have two children, Emma and John, and live in Louisville, Ky.

Jennifer Lynn Stoudt, ChE’99, and Damon Woodward were married Aug. 14 in Macon, Ga. Stoudt is an engineer with the Southern Co. in Macon, where the couple live.

S.K. Sundaram, PhD’94, has been accepted as a life member of the Indian Ceramic Society. He also presented a paper he co-authored entitled “Millimeter Wave Diagnostics of Materials and Melts” at the 29th International Conference on Tera-hertz Electronics in Karlsruhe, Germany, in late September.

Heather Heimke Surdykowski, BSyl’95, and her husband, Paul, announce the birth of a son, Benjamin Paul, on Aug. 26. Benjamin joins brother Jake at the family’s home in Atlanta. Surdykowski is in supply chain management for Lucent Technologies.

Liz Taylor, ME’97, received her photographic craftsman degree from the Professional Photographers of America in recognition of her service to the photographic profession as an orator, author and member.

In July, two of her entries in the organization’s international print competition, “Broken Pane” and “Strength and Innocence,” were selected for inclusion in the 113th International Exhibition of Professional Photography. Taylor owns Legacy Studios, a professional wedding and portrait photography studio, in Chambler, Ga.

Scott Verzyli, Mgt’90, has been named director of undergraduate admissions for the University of South Carolina. Verzyli was previously associate vice president for enrollment services at the University of Huntsville. Verzyli holds an MBA from Kennesaw State University and has been active in the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers and the Southern Association of College Registrars and Admissions Officers and is on the ACT Council in Alabama. He and his wife, Holly M., Mgr’94, have two children.

Laine Lott Watson, IE’90, and her husband, Scott, announce the birth of a daughter, Virginia Laine, on April 24. Virginia joins brother Ford at the family’s home in Atlanta. Watson works for Accenture.

Jay Wynn, AE’92, and his wife, Cammie, announce the birth of a daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, on Jan. 19. The family lives in Cambridge, Mass. Wynn completed his MBA at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Sloan School of Management in June and began work in July as a consultant in the private equity group at Bain & Company’s Boston office.

2000s

Anuj Batra, PhD’00, has been named one of the world’s 100 Top Young Innovators by Technology Review magazine. Batra is a member of the group technical staff in the digital signal processing solutions research and development center for Texas Instruments. In 2002, he helped start an ultra-wideband development effort within Texas Instruments. Batra was the lead author for the groundbreaking multi-band OFDM physical layer proposal for Texas Instruments; the original proposal serves as the fundamental baseline for the Multiband Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing Alliance proposal, now supported by more than 170 companies. He lives in Dallas.

Demetria Williams Buncum, MS ECE’00, has joined the Pillsbury Winthrop law firm in MacLean, Va., as a patent law clerk in the intellectual property practice. She attends the George Washington University School of Law. Buncum and her husband, Daniel, live in Alexandria, Va.

Donald Changeau, PubFol’02, MS PubFol’04, accepted a post as adjunct assistant professor at Bentley College in Waltham, Mass., in September. He has also been accepted into Boston University’s PhD program in sociology.

Adam Coker, AE’01, MS AE’03, has accepted a position with P.I. Research Inc. in Indianapolis as a support engineer for the CART racing series. PI Research produces advanced electronics and software products for all major racing categories worldwide. Coker lives in Columbus, Ind.

Denise Darry Arch, Arch’00, and Brandon Johnson, CmpE’98, were married Oct. 16. Johnson is a software engineer at Raytheon Systems in Alpharetta, Ga., and Denise is pursuing her master’s degree in architecture at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. The couple live in Atlanta.

Christian Doolin, Mgt’00, was awarded a grant by the U.S. Agency for International Development in September to work for one year as an emerging markets development adviser in Aqaba, Jordan. Doolin will provide assistance to the Aqaba Development Corp. in investment promotion. Doolin lives in Tallahassee, Fla.

Thomas “Andy” Earnest, ME’04, received his MBA from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Sloan School of Management in June. Earnest lives in Atlanta.

Jason E. Kelly, MS Stat’04, has been promoted to major in the U.S. Army. Kelly is an instructor assigned to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. He received a bachelor’s degree in 1994 from West Point and a master’s degree in 1998 from the University of Missouri, Rolla.

M. John Rafferty, ECE’02, is president of the Emerald Coast Georgia Tech Club, which reaches out to more than 1,000 alumni in the Florida panhandle, southern Alabama and southern Mississippi. Rafferty lives in Niceville, Fla.

William C. Strait, MS AE’03, became director of engineering for Simplex Manufacturing Co. in September. Strait is responsible for the direction of the company’s engineering department and oversees numerous product development projects and the updating of existing systems. Previously, Strait was the director of engineering for Aero Union Corp. of Chico, Calif. Before his work at Aero Union, Strait was a project manager for the air mobility support group of Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Co. in Atlanta.

Karen Hobbs Thompson, Mgt’00, and Ryan C. Thompson, CmpE’00, announce the birth of a daughter, Jenna Elise, on July 22. Jenna joins brother Andrew Ryan, 2, at the family’s home in Loveland, Colo.

Aleesha Valentine, Mgt’01, and Ted Valentine, ME’00, announce the birth of a daughter, Savannah Kathryn, on June 20. Todd is a vehicle engineer for Ford Motor Co. in Dearborn, Mich., and Aleesha is a sample management specialist for NSF International in Ann Arbor, Mich. The family lives in Belleville, Mich.

Joy Glover Walters, STC’01, and her husband, James, announce the birth of a daughter, Julia Elizabeth, on Aug. 18. Walters is a nurse. The family lives in Dacula, Ga.

The Ramblin’ Roll is how your classmates, roommates and teammates know what you’ve been up to. Whether you’ve made an addition to your family, gotten a promotion, changed occupations or won an award, it’s time to Be in Touch!
A year serving in the war in Iraq, two Georgia Tech students are back in the classroom.

LaQuanta Person and Jeff Smith were both called to active duty in the U.S. Army.

Person, a senior management major, is a member of the Army Reserve and was activated in February 2003 with a quartermaster unit based in her native Alabama.

Smith, a graduate student in Tech’s MBA program and in mechanical engineering, was in ROTC during his undergraduate work in mechanical engineering at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Ind., and served four years of active duty in the Army after graduating in 1997. The Dubuque, Iowa, native joined the Georgia National Guard when he enrolled at Tech in fall 2001. His engineering unit was also activated in February 2003.

When they got their calls, Person and Smith had only five days to put their personal lives in order before reporting to their units.

Smith was in Kuwait by March 13, 2003, while Person spent three months training with her unit at Fort Benning in Columbus, Ga., before her unit was sent to Kuwait in May.

“It was hard because I was already a senior when my unit was called up. I had August 1 circled on my calendar for graduation,” Person said. “But it was my job and I went.”

Person joined the Army Reserve at age 17, attending basic training the summer before her senior year in high school in Clayton, Ala., and completing the advanced individual training course the summer before starting at Tech in the fall of 1999.

After the events of Sept. 11, 2001, Person said her unit began preparing for action, performing call-up drills every weekend and having the inoculations necessary for soldiers who are sent overseas.

“I was commuting two and a half hours every weekend in February (2003) for drills. Then one day they called and said, ‘Specialist Person, you need to report in support of Operation Enduring Freedom,’” she said.

As quartermaster, Person’s unit provided all units in Iraq with food, water and other supplies. She thought they would be stationed well behind the lines in Kuwait, but they moved into Iraq a month after arriving in the Middle East.

“I never thought we would be sent into Iraq, but during a war situation, you are first a combat soldier and you may not do the job you are trained to do,” Person said. “I think God put me there for a particular reason and I got a lot out of the experience. It put me in touch with reality quickly and I learned not to take simple things for granted. I also learned about a different culture.”

In the supply camp, located about 40 miles west of Baghdad, Person said the nearby sound of exploding ordnance “became like cricket at night,” but one evening the reality of war came straight into the camp.

“We heard an explosion, but this night it sounded like crickets at night,” Smith said. “I never thought we would be sent into Iraq, but that was shocking. It touched me so much and it really made me want to do something that will make a difference for people.”

In October 2003, Smith was relocated to Al Anbar, the largest province in Iraq, to support the 82nd Airborne Division. There he again managed engineering projects in Iraqi communities.

The priorities for Smith’s unit were “power, water, education and sewage,” but this time he didn’t have a detachment of more than 100 skilled American workers at his disposal. Instead, Smith utilized Iraqi skilled workers.

In order to define which projects should start first and how many Iraqi contractors to employ, Smith turned to the local governor of Al Anbar to identify Iraqi departmental engineers who were unemployed due to the lack of currency in the economy.

Smith interviewed four Iraqi departmental engineers and received construction packets for each department’s top 10 projects. Within a few weeks, Smith awarded a total of $70,000 for eight projects.

When Smith left Al Anbar in March, he had supervised completion of more than 600 projects and distributed more than $20 million in funds seized from Saddam Hussein in the effort to rebuild Iraq.

After coming back to the United States — Smith in March and Person in May — both spent the summer with their families before returning to Georgia Tech.

“Returning to Tech was a bit different after my experience, plus all my friends had graduated. But I wouldn’t trade the experience for anything,” Smith said. “My deployment has helped me to understand the importance of my tight family network and loved ones. My career is important, but I can always find a successful position and career near my family, which is, above all, priority one.”

When Person graduates in May, she plans to pursue a master’s degree in public health, specifically epidemiology, a career path she decided on while in Iraq.

“I’ve always wanted to be in the health care field, but I didn’t want to be a doctor or a nurse. While we were in Iraq I had a lot of time to get myself together and to think about what is best for me. I also saw a lot of things while I was there — the way people live — that was shocking. It touched me so much and it really made me want to do something that will make a difference for people.”
Deaths

1920s

Charles A. Stebbins, Arch 26, of Titusville, Fla., on July 18. He died just two weeks before his 102nd birthday.

James Madison Crawford, Chs 35, of Atlanta, on Oct. 5. He started working as a newspaper delivery boy at age 8 and remained in the work force closing real estate deals almost until his death at age 91. A Navy veteran of World War II, he became executive vice president of Adair Realty and was an original member of the Million Dollar Club and its oldest living member.

D.A. Henderson Jr., TE 38, of Kingsport, Tenn., on Aug. 29. He served as an Army captain during World War II and was president of Dobyns-Taylor Hardware from 1968 to 1978. He was a past president of the Kingsport Georgia Tech Club, Kingsport Merchants Bureau and Tennessee Retail Hardware Association. He delivered food for Meals on Wheels for 14 years, volunteered with Contact Concern for 10 years and served as a volunteer probation officer for three years. He authored a book chronicling the life of Slem Dobyns entitled “God’s Troubadour.” Proceeds from the book were directed to the Halston United Methodist Home for Children.

Raymond J. Kennedy, Chs 31, of Statesboro, Ga., on Oct. 4, 2003. He was chairman of the board of Kennedy Concrete.

Thomas S. Pryor, EE 36, of Huntsville, Ala., on Aug. 11. During World War II, he served as executive officer of the Signal Corps Training Schools and as chief of the telephone and telegraph branch of the Service Command Signal Corps Office. Mr. Pryor, who attained the rank of lieutenant colonel, served in a Signal Corps construction battalion in the Philippines and was stationed in Japan at the end of the war. He was the general superintendent of South Texas Cotton Oil Co. and later worked with Continental Gin Co. and Army Missile Command, both in Huntsville.

Pascal M. Rapier, ChE 39, of Corvallis, Ore., on June 28. He was a retired University of California-Berkeley scientist.

James C. Ryan, EE 37, of New Orleans, on Feb. 27. He retired from Ryan Electric Co.

Hubert M. Steinek, EE 33, of Charlotte, N.C., on Sept. 22. He served at the Charleston Navy Yard in South Carolina during World War II and worked as a professional engineer at J.N. Pease and Associates for 31 years.

John D. Wimberly, Corn 33, of Kingsport, Tenn., on Aug. 13. He was vice president of Tri-City Rentals.

1940s

John W. Archibald, EE 46, of Boulder, Colo., on Dec. 2. He was the retired owner of Archibald & Millie.

Leon L. Bawer, EE 43, of Waban, Mass., on Aug. 17. He had a long career in the defense industry, from serving as a radar officer in the Pacific during World War II to working on the development of guided missiles. He worked at Fairchild E&E in New York and ACF Industries in New Jersey.

Hugh S. Bumr Co., TE 41, of Rome, Ga., on Sept. 25. He was a member of the Georgia Tech Foundation’s Founders’ Council. Survivors include a son, Hugh Bumr Jr., ChE 71.

Edward Epstein Jr., Cerf 41, of Webster Groves, Mo., on July 18. Brother Charles Epstein, AE 52, teased him that he graduated second in his class— a class of two. A World War II veteran, Mr. Epstein and a group of friends founded Missouri Refractories Inc.

Thomas W. Fowler Jr., IM 48, of Dunwoody, Ga., on Sept. 5. He was a member of the 1939 Atlanta Junior Davis Cup tennis team and in 1941 led his Boys High School team to the state tennis title and won the doubles title at the UNC Chapel Hill Southern Pep Tennis Championships. A member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, he quickly established himself as a top tennis player at Tech, but World War II interrupted his college career. He joined the Marines, served as a fighter pilot instructor in Pensacola, Fla., and attained the rank of captain. After returning to Tech, Mr. Fowler won a No. 2 singles position in the SEC championship tournament and helped the Yellow Jackets win the conference tennis title in 1946. He continued to win tennis trophies after college and worked for Sears, Roebuck & Co. for 33 years.

The Thomas Edwin “Ed” Garner Sr., Arch 40, of Decatur, Ga., on Aug. 11. He was the supervising architect during the 1948 renovation of the state Capitol, including the first gilding of its dome, and the construction of the governor’s mansion, completed in 1968. He also oversaw the 1956 construction of the Georgia Supreme Court building and was the on-site architect for the Fulton County Courthouse. Mr. Garner was a World War II Army Signal Corps veteran.

Robert E. Garst, ME 42, of Louisville, Ky., on Aug. 19. He was president of Garst-Reecever Construction Co.

James L. Hicks Jr., EE 43, of Florence, Ala., on Sept. 17. A member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon at Tech, he attended Harvard Business School before serving under Gen. George Patton as a captain in the 3rd Armored Division in the liberation of France. He retired from Reynolds Metals Co. after 35 years of employment.

Thomas B. Jordan Jr., CE 49, of Lake Jackson, Texas, on July 30. He was a retired construction superintendent for Dow’s Texas Division.


Harry B. Rhainer, MS EE 49, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., on Nov. 11. Mr. Rhainer was the founder of Rhainer Construction Co.

Jerry Daniel Sessions, IE 48, of Roswell, Ga., on July 2.
Eldon B. “Jack” Thoma II
Cl's 45, of Tullahoma, Tenn., on Aug. 30. He was chairman of the board of the insurance firm E.B. Thoma & Son Agency. He served in the Army during World War II and as a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve. Mr. Thoma was a longtime contributor to the Alexander-Tharp Fund at Georgia Tech. Shirley L. Vick Jr.
Cl's 49, of Alpharetta, Ga., on March 21. He retired from Group Insurance Service Center.
John H. Walker
ME 43, of Bulverde, Texas, on Aug. 10. He retired from PPG Industries.

John E. Black
IE 58, of Augusta, Ga., on March 10.
Kenneth L. Carroll
ME 50, of Huntsville, Ala., on Nov. 8, 2003.

William R. Cooksey III
IM 56, of Blairsville, Ga., on July 4. While a student at Tech, he would stand on the football field during halftime at home games and pilot a model airplane that he constructed and painted to look like a yellow jacket. The gas-powered plane was connected to Mr. Cooksey’s controls by wire. He attained the rank of major in the Air Force and maintained a lifelong love for building and flying model airplanes. Mr. Cooksey was an active member of the Cherokee Model Airplane Club.

Howard F. Duson
IM 57, of Crowley, La., on Feb. 1. He was president of W.W. Duson Inc.

Donald M. Hartman
Che 52, of Carrollton, Texas, on June 14. He had been an agent with National Life Insurance Co.

Ralph P. Jordan Jr.
IM 50, of Enterprise, Ala., on Aug. 9.

John William Kent
IM 59, of Augusta, Ga., on Sept. 14. While at Tech, he served as treasurer of Theta Chi fraternity. Mr. Kent retired from CSI Services.

Richard F. Kilburg
AE 51, MS AE 58, of Fort Worth, Texas, on Sept. 1. A Navy aviator, he retired from Lockheed Martin in Fort Worth after a 35-year career as an aeronautical engineer.

Allison Ledbetter
IM 54, of Rome, Ga., on Aug. 16. A member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity at Georgia Tech, he was a Navy veteran. Active in the Rome community, Mr. Ledbetter was past president of the Cherokee Museum, vice president and trustee of the YMCA, president of the local Heritage Foundation and trustee of the A.W. Ledbetter Foundation. He was president of Echota Realty Co.

Edward J. Lyons
Che 54, of Atlanta, on Aug. 8. He was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity.

Raymond D. Morton
IE 54, of Berlin, Md., on Feb. 2. He retired from Westinghouse Electric Systems after 34 years of service concentrating on the development of airborne radar systems for the Air Force. Mr. Morton served in the Army Air Force during World War II and was a member of the Masonic Order and American Legion.

John L. Petty Jr.
Che 51, of Oak Ridge, Tenn., on June 4. He retired from Martin Marietta Corp.

James H. Watts Jr.
IE 51, of Huntsville, Ala., on Aug. 13. He had been a mechanical engineer with the U.S. government.

1970s

William “Vincent” Durkin III
Arch 71, on Aug. 16 at the Oviido, Fla., home of his sister and brother-in-law, Geri Durkin Bugge, Mgt 72, and August “Augie” Bugge, ME 72. He was the son of Lt. Col. William V. Durkin, Cls 41. After a tour of duty with the Georgia National Guard, he worked for Heery & Heery Associates as a specialist in health care design and later joined Stevens & Wilkinson. His assignments included on-site representation during the construction of the Atlanta-Fulton Central Library and the Cincinnati Airport.

1980s

Harry J. Canfield
IM 81, MS Mgt 85, of Roswell, Ga., on July 6 following a massive stroke. Survivors include his wife, Susan Dobek Canfield, HS 85, MS HS 83. The Canfields had been football and basketball season ticket holders since the mid-1980s and had traveled to San Antonio to cheer on the basketball team during the Final Four this spring.

Friend

John W. Swanson, 86, of Green Valley, Ariz., on Aug. 4. He worked in Appleton, Wis., at the Institute of Paper Chemistry, now the Institute of Paper Science and Technology at Georgia Tech, from 1941 to 1982. He taught graduate classes in surface and colloid science, helped win contract research for the Institute’s member paper companies and the allied chemical industry, was awarded 11 patents and became the first director of the natural materials and systems division.

Students

William S. Newbold III, 19, of Alpharetta, Ga., on Aug. 14. He was a member of the class of 2007 at the College of Sciences.

Elesha Spencer, a freshman chemical engineering major from Suwannee, Ga., on Sept. 8.

Franklin Infant fought Eight-day Battle

October could have been the cruellest month for Julie Smith Franklin, IM 86, of Atlanta, and her husband, Andy. It’s Pregnancy and Infancy Loss Awareness Month.

On Aug. 17, she gave premature birth to her firstborn child, a son, Caleb Andrew. Born 16 weeks early, the child lived just eight days. But Julie Franklin said she has found solace in the October observance and a network of support.

“Losing a child is horrible and sad,” said Franklin, a product development manager for Franklin, a product development manager for

BellSouth. She wanted friends and classmates to know what had happened, so she sent an item to the Ramblin’ Roll. “Caleb had an obituary in the Atlanta paper, yet my former classmates are scattered throughout the world.”

The item noted the birth and tragic loss of Caleb.

“I gave birth to a live baby, which was unexpected, yet joyous,” she said. “He did worse, he was a fighter and tried to overcome all the things going wrong with his body. He wasn’t supposed to live the third night of his life, but he made it another five nights. That was joyous to us.”

“There is a strong network of my ‘secret sorority’ known as parents who have lost a child. It is a sad group. Indeed, it is so sad to think about the loss of an infant. Yet it happens. Our experience is shocking and upsetting to us, but it is our reality. We gradually work through it and feel the need to share what we can with others,” Franklin said.

“Caleb was a blessed child that we wish to share with others, especially since they will never get the chance to meet him. Those who read this type of announcement might have something to gain — being grateful for their children or realizing it is OK to acknowledge the loss of children, both to the world and to parents who have gone through it.”

Perhaps this is my small crusade in honor of my son and for any families who have suffered the loss of a child,” Franklin said.

“Please recognize one of the most important life events — becoming a parent and, yes, even losing the infant.”
Legendary Left-hander  
Kim King Dies at 59

Kim King, a Tech legend on and off the football field, died at age 59 on Oct. 12 after a hard-fought battle against cancer.

Just 10 days before his death, Mr. King rode out onto the football field at Bobby Dodd Stadium in the rumble seat of the Ramblin’ Wreck. He was saluted with a standing ovation during a ceremony in which Tech dedicated the Kim King Football Locker Room.

Mr. King, IM 68, was an icon of Georgia Tech football for more than 40 years, from a standout playing career for coach Bobby Dodd to service to the Institute as a supporter and benefactor of athletics and as a radio color analyst.

Nicknamed “the young left-hander” by play-by-play announcer Al Ciraldo, Mr. King was a three-year starting quarterback from 1965 to 1967 and led the Yellow Jackets to wins in the Gator and Orange bowls. One of the highlights of his career came when he helped the Jackets defeat eighth-ranked Tennessee in 1966 and was named “National Back of the Week” by Sports Illustrated. By the end of his gridiron reign, Mr. King had become Tech’s all-time leading passer.

“Kim truly loved Georgia Tech and especially Tech football,” said Director of Athletics Dave Braine. “He was a tremendous ambassador for the program and he was loved by so many people. To say that he will be missed is an understatement.”

Mr. King chaired the feasibility study for what ultimately became the Arthur B. Edge Center, which houses Tech’s athletics offices. At the time of its completion in 1982, the Edge Center was a significant move by the Institute toward a commitment to intercollegiate athletics.

“I think when you talk about great names at Georgia Tech, you always hear Heisman, Alexander and Dodd. I always put Homer Rice in there because he did so much for the program. When you talk about Homer, you have to talk about Kim because at one time this program was almost ready to go downhill. If it weren’t for Kim and Homer getting Coach Dodd back in the program to raise the money for the Edge Center, we might not be where we are today,” Braine said.

In 1988 Mr. King was a driving force behind the state Board of Regents and the Grant family heirs to add the name of Bobby Dodd to Tech’s home field.

Diagnosed with multiple myeloma in 1999, Mr. King underwent extensive treatment and beat the disease, but in May was diagnosed with secondary acute myelogenous leukemia.

Braine said the dedication of the locker room was a great thrill for Mr. King.

“We take a lot of things for granted but he had never been in the Ramblin’ Wreck. He had never gone out on the field to lead the team out,” Braine said. “He said when he came off the field that day that it was a great highlight. In some small way I am glad we got to do what we did at the time we did it.”

Mr. King was admired by generations of Yellow Jackets fans for his role as the color analyst on Tech’s radio broadcasts. He joined the broadcast team in 1974 as the partner of play-by-play man Ciraldo.

Wes Durham, Tech’s current play-by-play voice, began working with Mr. King in 1995.

“This is such a tremendous loss for Georgia Tech and for me personally,” Durham said. “Kim King is Georgia Tech and I’m honored that I had the chance to know him and work with him for the last 10 years.

“What Kim meant to me professionally pales in comparison to what he meant to me personally. For so many people he embodies what Georgia Tech is: You play, you compete, you win, but you do it the right way — and not just on the football field.”

He founded Kim King Associates Inc., one of Atlanta’s foremost commercial real estate development firms, in 1972. His firm developed properties all over Atlanta, including the Centergy complex at Technology Square. He was named the state’s “Most Respected CEO” for 2004 by Georgia Trend magazine, which also tapped him as one of the “100 Most Influential Georgians” in 2001.

President Wayne Clough said Mr. King served on the search committee that selected him to head Georgia Tech.

“It has been my pleasure to know Kim King since he served on the search committee that ultimately selected me to be Georgia Tech’s president.

Over the years we’ve worked closely on the Georgia Tech Foundation, the Georgia Tech Athletic Board and through the development of the Centergy complex and Technology Square. Further, as a star play-by-play announcer and the color commentator for Tech football games, Kim has distinguished himself as someone with a real affinity for the Institute,” Clough said.

Head football coach Chan Gailey described Mr. King as the “true Tech man, from the way he played on the football field to his successful business career and, most importantly, in the way he lived his life.”

Mr. King was inducted into the Georgia Tech Sports Hall of Fame in 1978 and the State of Georgia Sports Hall of Fame in 1996. In 1998 he was honored by the Athletic Association with the Total Person Alumnus Award. He also was named one of Georgia Tech’s “50 Greatest Athletes of the 20th Century” in 2000.

Bill Curry, Tech’s head football coach from 1980 to 1986, said, “I have never known anyone like him and do not expect to find another in our lifetime.

“Kim had as his basis that most rare combination of honesty, compassion and an indefatigable drive to win. His capacity for loyalty, whether to his alma mater or to a friend was limitless,” Curry said.

“It is my firm belief that it had not been for Kim King in the late ’70s and early ’80s we would not have enjoyed a fraction of the success we have experienced in athletics. His vision, intelligence and capacity to form coalitions within the Tech family were vital.”

A public memorial service for Mr. King was held Oct. 18 at Alexander Memorial Coliseum. He is survived by his wife, Gail, daughters Angela and Abby, son Beau and two grandchildren.
Paul Hewitt Q&A
Basketball coach sees chance to be very good

Paul Hewitt took the Yellow Jackets to the championship game of the NCAA Final Four tournament in his fourth season as head basketball coach. With four starters and eight lettermen returning from last year’s national championship runners-up, Hewitt is optimistic about another successful year. Compiled by Mike Stamus

What is your general overview of this team as you prepare for the upcoming season?
It’s a new year and a new group. There will be a lot of temptation for people to say, “You’ve got everybody back, you’ve got the same team, you should be this good.” But when you subtract Marvin Lewis, Clarence Moore, Robert Brooks and David Nelson, it changes the group. Zam Fredrick, Anthony Morrow, Ra’Sean Dickey and Jeremis Smith are freshmen and there will have to be adjustments, but we have a chance to be very good.

How will your preparations for this season be different?
We’re going to maintain our emphasis on conditioning and individual player development. Our progress in the first and second years may not have been obvious to people outside the program, but the people inside saw it. We have been building the foundation since day one, and what you see now — with us having gone to the Final Four — is the first floor. I think we have a chance to make the leap and become one of the next great programs in the country.

Is there a different kind of pressure to maintain that status and not be a “flash in the pan”?
We need to make sure our guys get better as basketball players and are working toward their degrees. If you worry about the big picture too much, then you’re not going to do the things you need to do to be successful.

Defensively, do you expect to be as strong as last year’s team?
Yes, the older guys know and understand even more how important defensive pressure is to our success.

What will you tell the returning players to ensure they maintain the focus, determination and chemistry that were so important to last year’s team?
Chemistry is a combination of the type of guys you recruit and us nurturing them. The freshmen have a tremendous responsibility to continue this program the way the Muhammads, the Elders, the McHenrys and the Schenschers have established it.

How much of this team’s success is dependent on how quickly the freshmen learn your system and the level of work ethic you expect?
The upperclassmen have already established with the younger guys what type of shape they need to be in. They’ve told them not to get lulled to sleep. We give them the first two or three weeks just to get themselves acclimated to school, but then we get started with a bang. I know that they’ve been talking to them.

Have you decided yet how you will fill Marvin Lewis’ spot in the starting five?
It will evolve. We have four very experienced and talented perimeter guys in Will Bynum, Isma’il Muhammed, B.J. Elder and Jarrett Jack. Someone is going to have to fight for playing time in the fifth spot.

How do you assess Will Bynum’s assimilation into the group last year, and how will his role be different this year?
He was huge for us. We would not have made it to the Final Four if not for Will. It was tough at times. He’s such a talented individual player. Being a transfer, and coming in while we were on a seven- or eight-game winning streak, it was tough for him to jump in and really not have some unsteady moments. But he stuck with it and at the end of the year he made huge play after huge play in the NCAA tournament.

Assess Jarrett Jack’s development in terms of his basketball skills, and what do you and he want to improve upon for this season?
He came here as a tremendous physical talent — size, strength, speed, athleticism and desire to play the game. He’ll leave as a complete player. He shot the ball well last year and he’ll shoot it better this year. There are some little things that he needs to work on but let’s face it, when you score 29 points in a Final Eight game to get to the Final Four, you have a lot of ability.

How important is building relationships with Tech basketball alumni and trying to involve them in your program?
It does two things. It establishes in the minds of our current players that there is a tremendous amount of pride that goes with being a Georgia Tech basketball player. You see guys like Mark Price, John Salley and Dennis Scott offering encouragement and doing what they can to make these guys understand they have a legacy to uphold. All too often in college basketball, when the ball stops bouncing, people forget about the former players. They’ve created a lot of happy moments for people here at Georgia Tech, and it’s up to us to make sure they always feel appreciated here.

Do you support the legislation — the fifth year of eligibility and so forth — the National Association of Black Coaches proposed this summer?
Absolutely. I couldn’t be more supportive of that legislation. The more we can do for our student athletes the better — five years of eligibility, the opportunity to pay for families to fly out and see games at least once a year. There are so many things in that legislation that are positive for our student athletes. I get frustrated because people have a negative stereotype of student athletes and it’s wrong. The vast majority of our guys want to get an education and the vast majority of them want to do something positive with their lives. If that means they go play professional basketball, nobody should hold that against them. If they decide to stay in school for four years, earn their degree and not play professional basketball, it should be applauded as well.

Paul Hewitt led Tech to the 2004 NCAA championship game.

P HOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER GOOLEY

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The Yellow Jackets open the regular season against Alabama State Nov. 19 at Alexander Memorial Coliseum.
YellowJackets

TOTALY DIFFERENT

Women recruit international players, rank No. 5

By Neil B. McGahee

Georgia Tech women’s basketball coach MaChelle Joseph and her assistants logged almost 100,000 miles this summer searching for basketball talent. Their efforts resulted in Tech signing the No. 5-ranked recruiting class in the nation, according to All Star Girls Report, a national scouting and recruiting source.

“We traveled around the world, literally, looking at the best players,” Joseph said. “We flew to California, Detroit, Miami, Sweden, even Australia. We decided to not let anyone outwork us.”

Joseph said all six incoming players will make an impact immediately.

“Four of them are experienced in international competition,” she said. “Jill Ingram from Charlotte was ranked as the No. 3 point guard in the nation. She reminds me a lot of Jarrett Jack.”

“Janie Mitchell, a forward, plays like an upperclassman. Her mother was an All-American at Georgia, so she just has a feel and a knack for the game.”

“Daphne Mitchell from Woodward Academy in Atlanta is a 6-3 post player that gives us a big presence inside.”

Joseph said the best surprise was Sweden’s Chioma Nnamaka.

“She is an experienced international player that can play any of the three guard positions,” she said. “Chioma brings so much experience with her and that is one of the things that we are obviously lacking heading into this season with no seniors.”

At 5-11, Guillette Ancora, a point guard from Australia, adds more size and depth to the tallest women’s team Tech has ever had.

Departing seniors Fallon Stokes, Alex Stewart, Kasha Terry are more than capable of leading this team. Paul Hewitt did in four years. Coach Braine believed in him and gave him the resources he needed and he made it to the NCAA championship game. I have that same vision for the women’s program.”

The Yellow Jackets traveled to Costa Rica in October to play exhibition games against its national team and the University of Costa Rica. They begin regular-season play against Georgia State Nov. 19 at Alexander Memorial Coliseum.

Zupan Honored at White House

Paralympian Mark Zupan, CE 99, and 100 other members of the 2004 Olympic and Paralympic teams were welcomed to the White House by President George W. Bush on Oct. 18.

Bush called the athletes “exemplary ambassadors for the United States.”

To qualify for Team USA, you had to set high goals, devote long hours to training and outperform talented athletes from all across our country,” he told the athletes and coaches in a South Lawn ceremony. “You faced the toughest competition and the highest pressure in all of sports. When the games were over, America had earned more than 100 medals, the most in the world. You made us all proud.”

Zupan said he plans to compete in the 2008 games in Beijing.

President Bush pays tribute to Olympians, including Mark Zupan, CE 99, bottom left.
Intelligent Breaks
Strange shares stories of timing and luck that paid off big time

By Kimberly Link-Wills

Leland Strange believes it takes smart luck to be successful in business.
He shared his “Strange Stories of Entrepreneurial Success and Failures” during a lunchtime alumni seminar at the Global Learning Center at Technology Square as part of Homecoming activities.

Strange, IM 65, is chairman of the board, CEO and president of Intelligent Systems, which went from an idea to revenues of more than $100 million in just three years.

“Luck is the single most important thing in differentiating between the kind of success I talk about and failure,” Strange said, quickly adding that his presentation doesn’t focus on “dumb luck. When I’m talking about luck, I’m not talking about lottery kind of luck.”

To illustrate his point that luck has everything to do with success, Strange recalled a drought in his native Texas during his boyhood. A call was sent out for residents to pray for rain.

“The rains didn’t come,” Strange said. “Flanes seeded the clouds. The rains didn’t come.”

Finally, a Native American tribe was invited to live on his home waiting for luck to come to me.” Strange said. “I felt like I was lucky. But I wasn’t sitting at home waiting for luck to come to me.”

Strange said throughout his career he has been in right place at the right time — and lucky. Both were factors when he placed a “situations wanted” ad in the newspaper. He received a proposition to open a cheese shop for an investor — with the promise of equity in the company.

“Timing has a lot to do with a rain dance,” he said.

Strange’s ticket down Lucky Street hasn’t been a direct thoroughfare.

He went from working part time as a shipping clerk for Colonial Film and Equipment while at Tech to serving as the chief industrial engineer on a banana plantation in Costa Rica after graduation.

When he returned to Atlanta to pursue a graduate degree at Georgia State, Strange paid a friendly visit to his former employer and was immediately offered a job — not as a shipping clerk but as Colonial’s general manager.

“I thought about it for a nanosecond before saying yes, although I didn’t know the word nano then,” Strange said. “I felt like I was lucky. But I wasn’t sitting at home waiting for luck to come to me.”

Strange said throughout his career he has been in the right place at the right time — and lucky.

Women often underestimate their value and worth regardless of industry, according to Lucas.

“Part of negotiating is truly understanding, from a mental and a practical standpoint, what your value and what you want and being very clear about what you want,” Coker said.

Coker shared a lesson she learned early in her career about making sure your boss knows what you are doing for a company.

“And when I get a pay raise and my boss is sending me a message, ‘You’re doing a good job,’ I always say, ‘OK, I’ll take that as a message that you think I’m doing a good job.’ And I send him a message, ‘Thank you for recognizing me.’ And now I can ask for a raise,” Coker said.

Heath added, “Don’t think that just by sitting back and doing your job someone is going to recognize you are doing a good job. You have to ask for what you want.”

Eventually Strange and his partner churned out 36 wine and cheese shops. They even got some free advertising when local television crews turned out to watch the struggle to get a 1,000-pound promotional cheese into a Florida shop. “I’ve got a lot of good cheese stories,” he said.

For a time Strange, who has founded more than 20 diverse companies from a sandwich shop to a polystyrene manufacturer, worked as a consultant.

“[Women] often underestimate their value and worth regardless of industry, according to Lucas.

“Part of negotiating is truly understanding, from a mental and a practical standpoint, what your value and what you want and being very clear about what you want,” Coker said.

Coker shared a lesson she learned early in her career about making sure your boss knows what you are doing for a company.

“Your boss doesn’t always know what you are doing and what you are accomplishing. You have to find ways throughout the year and throughout the process to let them know what you are bringing to the table, what you are doing today, what you did yesterday and keeping them aware of what your value is,” Coker said.

Heath added, “Don’t think that just by sitting back and doing your job someone is going to recognize you are doing a good job. You have to ask for what you want.”