growth and change

A sweeping restructuring of Georgia Tech’s business and community assistance programs is completed as part of a new initiative known as the Enterprise Innovation Institute.

Civic leader Bernie Marcus makes a $15 million commitment for the Institute’s Nanotechnology Research Center Building and helps break ground on the $85 million project.

The Library’s East Commons and Resource Center are completed, offering more centralized student support services.

An unplanned surge in enrollment provides Georgia Tech its largest freshman class in history.

The National Institutes of Health awards Georgia Tech, Emory University and the Medical College of Georgia a grant to partner on a Nanomedicine Development Center focusing on DNA damage repair.

The two-year makeover of the Fifth Street bridge creates a pedestrian-friendly boulevard connecting Technology Square with the rest of campus.

awards and honors

Electrical and Computer Engineering Professor Jim Maindl receives the 2006 Medal of Honor from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

For its proposal on rehabilitating Dubai’s Central Business District, a team of graduate students in the College of Architecture takes first place at the Dubai Forum for Sustainable Urban Development.

Businessman and civil rights leader Jesse Hill Jr. receives the 2006 Ivan Allen Jr. Prize for Progress and Service.

The School of Aerospace Engineering names its Combustion Laboratory in honor of Regents’ Professor Ben Zinn.

For his notable achievements in the advancements of aeronautics, Professor Robert Laevey receives the Daniel Guggenheim Medal.

Assistant Professor William King is selected as a member of Technology Review magazine’s annual TR35, a list of top technology innovators under the age of 35.

people and positions

Following a national search, Don Radakovich takes the helm of the Athletic Association after news that Dave Braine would retire.

Mechanical Engineering Professor Yves Berthelot is named president and director of Georgia Tech Lorraine.

President Wayne Clough is named chair of the National Academy of Engineering/National Research Council Committee on New Orleans Regional Hurricane Protection Projects.

The College of Management names Steven Sallou as its new dean.

Jim Feig is named associate vice president of Institute Communications and Public Affairs.

Office of Budget and Planning Director Steven Swant is named vice president for Administration and Finance.

Professor Ronald Bayor is named chair of the School of History, Technology and Society.

GTRI names Bill Melvin as director of its Sensors and Electromagnetic Applications Laboratory.

Gary Schuster, professor and dean of the College of Sciences since 1994, is appointed provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, replacing Jean-Lou Chameau, who accepted the presidency of the California Institute of Technology.

John Stein, who previously directed the Office of Success Programs, is named dean of students.

Tom McDermott is named director of GTRI’s Electronic Systems Laboratory.
research and innovation

Assistant Professor Jason Freeman creates a program that utilizes iTunes to create a unique sonic signature of a person’s musical taste.

Professor Arthur Ragauskas leads a multidisciplinary group of experts in recommending a comprehensive research and policy plan aimed at increasing the practicality of using biofuels and biomaterials as a supplement to petroleum.

In the field of atomic force microscopy (AFM), Associate Professor Levent Degertekin’s Force Sensing Integrated Readout and Active Tip (FIRAT) — is hailed as a “ubiquitous tool for examining nanostructures.”

The Health Systems Institute — a new research partnership between Georgia Tech and Emory University — is created to develop systems and technologies designed to improve communication within the health care cycle.

Regents’ Professor Ben Zinn announces the creation of a new kind of combustor that dramatically lowers the emission of two principal air pollutants.

A research team from IBM and Georgia Tech demonstrates the first silicon-germanium transistor to operate at frequencies above 500 gigahertz, roughly 250 times faster than the chips in modern personal computers.

To protect sensitive material or prevent unauthorized copying, researchers in the College of Computing complete a prototype device that can block digital-camera function.

Associate Professor Ali Aslaki leads the development of a compact, efficient and inexpensive spectrometer designed to help guide anyone whose vision is obstructed or impaired.

An economic impact study sponsored by 10 of Georgia’s top companies finds that greater flexibility in the state’s higher education system would increase the economic impact and competitiveness of Georgia Tech and the state’s other public research universities.

Georgia Tech initiates an internal review process for its 10-year certification within the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

Finding Common Ground, a student initiative designed to promote intellectual discussion and civility on campus, culminates with post Mayo Angelou delivering an inspirational lecture to more than 3,000 members of the Georgia Tech community.

A report shows that Georgia’s public colleges and universities have a combined economic impact of more than $23 billion a year on the state’s economy — 15 times more than its appropriation of $1.6 billion for higher education.

news and noteworthy

In the updated version of his book “The World is Flat,” author Thomas Friedman profiles Georgia Tech’s approach to education, saying the Institute was producing “the right kind of engineers.”

FOCUS — a program designed to increase the number of master’s and doctoral degrees awarded to minorities — marks its 15th anniversary.

Georgia Tech pilots an effort to provide advanced calculus courses to area high school students via videoconferencing.

The Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools reaffirms the Institute’s accreditation for the next 10 years.

The new Center for the Study of Systems Biology boasts one of the world’s most powerful supercomputing clusters, RAZOR, which is capable of 8.5 trillion calculations per second.

Georgia Tech’s Campus Recreation Center plays host to the NCAA men’s national swimming and diving competition.

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IN BRIEF:

In memoriam

EarthLink President and CEO Garry Betty died Jan. 2 due to complications from cancer. He was 49.

An active member of the community, Betty graduated in 1979 from Georgia Tech with a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering. In 1993, he was named the Institute’s Young Alumnus of the Year. He was also an enthusiasm supporter of his alma mater, serving as a member of both the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering’s external advisory board and the steering committee for Georgia Tech’s upcoming $1 billion comprehensive campaign.

New faculty ombuds

Since 1999, Georgia Tech has provided a Faculty Ombuds Office to assist colleagues in managing conflict by means where all parties can achieve their objectives. The Office is available to provide faculty with informal, confidential advice on how to handle concerns and conflicts that arise through their work at Tech.

The Office, which does not take sides in a conflict or act as a representative, is staffed by retired Tech faculty who report directly to the president. This month, Nari Davidson joined Edward Thomas as an ombuds. Davidson, who served as associate dean of the College of Engineering prior to retirement, replaces Helen Grogan, who retired late last year.

The Faculty Ombuds Office provides advice and options on how concerns might be resolved. Where necessary the Office will help identify the most appropriate institutional path to be followed. Use of the Office in no way affects standard administrative relationships or procedures, and is independent of an individual’s right to pursue formal grievance procedures. The Office is available to all members of the General Faculty. A similar office is provided for use by the Georgia Tech staff.

More information can be found at www.ohr.gatech.edu.

Alumna to co-host PBS pilot

Georgia Tech scientist Bahareh Azizi will make her television debut this week, co-hosting “Science Investigators,” a PBS program in which young, energetic scientists lead viewers on an hour-long expedition to uncover a series of scientific mysteries. Azizi, a postdoctoral researcher in the School of Chemistry and Biochemistry, recently earned her doctorate in biochemistry from Tech.

The program is one of three that PBS is broadcasting this month. “Science Investigators” will premiere nationally on Wednesday, Jan. 10 at 8 p.m. “Wired Science,” a program that translates Wired magazine’s journalism into a television show aired Jan. 3 while “22rd Century,” a program that uses scientists and futurists to imagine what the world will look like 100 years from now, airs Jan. 17.

PBS is asking viewers to weigh in on which show they’d like to see turned into a 10-episode series this fall. The network will use that information, combined with Nielsen ratings and other tools of the broadcast trade, to decide which series makes the cut. PBS put pilot episodes for all three shows, plus extra footage, on its Web site, at www.pbs.org/science.