Strategic vision
Woodruff Arts Center CEO looks back on Tech’s future

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As part of a community update on Georgia Tech’s Strategic Vision, Woodruff Arts Center President and CEO Joseph Bankoff presented a report Jan. 21 on Tech’s last 25 years—as seen from the year 2035.

In this “look back,” Bankoff—also a participant in the Institute’s strategic planning process—addressed students, faculty, administration and staff on how Tech weathered such challenges as diminished state funding; increased global competition for students; enhancement of the start-up mentality of Tech’s students; and broadening the Institute’s role in continued innovation.

In his recounting of history, Tech had restructured its curriculum to meet the challenges and maintain its leadership in innovation, partly by reframing its calendar, courses and interaction between alumni, students and faculty. Intensive three-week and semesters-long 27-week courses were added to the curriculum, while Tech students and faculty of diverse disciplines joined community members and alumni in long-term project analysis and innovation teams.

Tech expanded its borders further into Midtown, leading to a Tech Square-type revitalization and forming a new “Peachtree Corridor” for technology, drawing technical firms and venture capital to the area. The Institute’s collaborative nature expanded beyond Emory and the City of Atlanta, with new partnerships mainly forming from Blue Cross/Blue Shield, the Woodruff Arts Center, the Georgia Department of Transportation and Atlanta Public Schools, as well as globally, in new partnerships locally ranging from Blue Cross/Blue Shield, the Woodruff Arts Center, the Georgia Department of Transportation and Atlanta Public Schools, as well as globally, in new partnerships.

Bankoff’s main vision was of the Georgia Institute for Innovation, a not-for-profit organization operating under the Institute’s umbrella. With the ability to raise funds and enable entrepreneurial risks, the Institute for Innovation assured students’ experience in “real world” projects through engineering and technology. This expanded linking of process, design, research and policy to the social and environmental needs of the immediately adjacent community allowed students to learn by doing in ways that developed their leadership and innovation skills working in diverse groups,” he said.

In the “look back,” Tech alumni were able to exercise a “lifetime option” to participate in undergraduate classes or projects to continue their education. The Institute’s “Dining In” tradition brought administrative members and faculty together with students on a regular basis, promoting ongoing dialogue and discussion. As part of the Institute’s strategic vision, the effectiveness of teaching and investments was...

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Disclosures due
Faculty, staff must complete online conflict of interest form by March 15

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In accordance with Georgia law, all state employees must complete a conflict of interest disclosure each calendar year.

In past years, Georgia Tech has issued a paper form for faculty and staff to sign. In 2009, Georgia Tech implemented an online COI disclosure system. Employee participation is required to be 100 percent, so the online system has been re-opened for the submission of annual disclosures. The forms for 2009 must be completed by March 15, according to the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP).

While researchers are required to fill out project-specific conflicts of interest disclosure, every state employee is required...