State of the Institute highlights a reshaped campus, providing ‘Intersections of Innovation’

Sarah Eby-Ebersole
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

In his annual State of the Institute address, entitled “Intersections of Innovation,” President Wayne Clough highlighted the reshaping of the Georgia Tech campus and described the role of this endeavor in the larger context of the goals and aspirations of the Institute.

“As we shape our campus, we are also shaping our identity,” Clough explained. “We are crafting a campus that not only serves as a tool to help us achieve higher levels of excellence, but also communicates our intention to be the technological university of the 21st century — a place filled with intersections of innovation where new ideas are generated and new knowledge discovered that will make the world a better place.”

During the past year, Georgia Tech has opened 2 million square feet of new or newly renovated space — one-sixth of its total campus square footage. The new and renovated facilities represent a construction project cost of $500 million.

New and improved facilities not only represent one of the goals of the Strategic Plan of Georgia Tech, but they are also tools to use in realizing the other goals outlined in the Plan, Clough said. His address focused on how the new and improved facilities serve student-focused education, enhance leading-edge research, improve the quality of campus life, extend the Institute’s outreach, and make the campus more environmentally sustainable.

“Our building program speaks to our intention to take our place among the great educational institutions of the world,” he said. “We want a campus whose collective visual appearance gives it a strong sense of place.”

He noted that the construction was funded with a combination of state, private, and Institute resources. Less than 20 percent of the funding came from state appropriation, and these funds were already in place before the slowing economy necessitated further cuts. As a result, the construction and opening of new facilities is helping to sustain Georgia Tech’s forward momentum at a time when its state appropriations are being cut.

Student-focused education
In describing how the new facilities serve the goals of the Strategic Plan, Clough began with the Plan’s first goal, student-focused education.

Although the size of the incoming freshman class has been held constant at 2,200 for several years, improved retention resulted in a record number of bachelor’s degrees granted during the past year.

He attributed the improved retention to the deliberate effort given to improving the undergraduate experience. The recent undergraduate research initiative, for example, involved more than 1,550 undergraduates in structured research activities during the past year. Other initiatives expanded study-abroad opportunities, provided mid-semester performance reports, improved the skills of teaching assistants, and created more campus social activities.

“Offering a rigorous curriculum to some of the brightest minds in the state and nation requires quality educational facilities,” Clough said, “and we made significant progress on that score during the past year.”

He noted that 23 new classrooms and lecture halls had opened since the fall of 2002. In addition to offering high-quality space, these new classrooms give the Institute the elbow room it needs to begin taking some of its older classrooms out of service for renovation. Clough cited the J. S. Coon Building renovation as an example of what was planned for the historic core of campus.

Intersections of ideas
Clough also praised Georgia Tech’s outstanding faculty, whom he said “drive the process of knowledge discovery, whether it is helping students to discover the intricacies of their chosen discipline, or working side by side with students to make the research discoveries that feed innovation.”

He highlighted nine new deans and school chairs, and three eminent scholars who assumed endowed positions.

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Research award gives boost to Tech grad turned faculty member

Larry Bowie
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

Samuel Graham is the type of faculty recruit that engineering schools want among their ranks: an African-American scholar, entering the workforce with a Ph.D. in an engineering field, who recognizes the scarcity of minority role models and mentors in American universities and has the skills and know-how to do something about it.

“It is critical that we have more minority representation in academia in order to better prepare minority students in the fields of engineering and science,” said Graham, who joined the School of Mechanical Engineering as an assistant professor this fall, following four years at Sandia National Laboratories.

Graham is one of three Tech graduates who each recently received a $20,000 grant to help newly minted Ph.D. graduates jumpstart their academic careers.

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"QUOTE-UNQUOTE"

"The reality is, traffic is not going to go away. We now have more cars in the U.S. than drivers. These statistics are not going to get better. Part of the problem is that suburbs are designed to be completely auto-dependent — every single trip involves the car."

—Ellen Dunham-Jones, commenting on a report released at the National Urban Forest Conference on the adverse effects of urban sprawl. (CNN Headline News)  

"It’s very cramped and let’s just say that by the end of it I will know the people I’m working with very well indeed."

—Alexander Chequer, a research scientist in the School of Biology, on an upcoming project where he will study coral reef preservation off the Florida coast. (Western Daily Press, UK)

Address, cont’d from page 1

Chair during the past year. The Institute added a net 26 full-time academic faculty, although state budget cuts precluded adding as many new faculty as Clough had hoped.  

Georgia Tech now has 25 members of the National Academy of Engineering, seventh in the nation. The 11 National Science Foundation CAREER Awards won by junior faculty during the past year brought the Institute’s total to 83, second in the nation.  

The Institute also set records in all aspects of its research. Research expenditures for last year totaled $375 million, while awards reached $292 million. The 40 patents received and 181 invention disclosures filed were Institute highs.  

The arrival of a National Science Foundation Center of Excellence in Photonics, along with four world-renowned scholars in this new interdisciplinary field, brought Tech’s NSF Centers of Excellence to four — more than any other university except MIT.  

In addition to creating new technology, Tech is also a leader in studying its ramifications, Clough said. "Science and engineering need to intersect with public policy and decision-making, and the mix of disciplines we have at Georgia Tech offers a unique opportunity to develop and promote that engagement."

Campus Life

The reshaping of campus addresses recreation and relaxation as well as academics and research, Clough said. Phase one of the Campus Recreation Center, which replaces the Student Athletic Complex, is now open. The enclosed and refurbished swimming and diving pools from the Olympics give Tech the ability to host world-class aquatic events. Suspended above the pools is a large gym with six basketball courts, weight and cardio fitness areas, dance and aerobic studios, and a four-lane track.  

Phase two, which will open next fall, will include a leisure pool, racquetball courts, an expanded fitness area, a climbing wall, space for roller hockey and indoor soccer, and a parking deck.  

Clough also cited the renovation of the annex to the Student Center, which will provide student lounges and dining areas as well as office space for student organizations.  

The newly opened Technology Square takes a big step toward providing the campus community with a supportive retail environment, Clough said. "Despite being in the middle of a city, Georgia Tech has never had the nearby shopping and dining opportunities that characterize a typical college town," he noted.  

Athletics also play an important role in campus life, and the renovated Bobby Dodd Stadium and Russ Chandler Baseball Stadium show the athletic program at its best, Clough said.  

Sustainability

Georgia Tech is a leader in conducting environmental research, incorporating sustainability into its curriculum, and incorporating sustainability into our campus structures and daily operations, Clough said.  

He pointed to the Management Building at Technology Square, which is only the 13th building in the United States to receive silver certification for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) from the U.S. Green Building Council. This honor is based on a broad range of construction and operation standards.  

Other new environmentally friendly measures feature rooftops across campus. The white roofs of Technology Square reflect the city heat rather than absorbing it. A unique drainage system on the ESP/RT Building collects rainwater from the roof and percolates it into the ground, rather than allowing it to flow away through the storm sewers. The roof of the Campus Recreation Center is covered with solar cells, helping with the power bill as well as providing opportunities for experimentation.  

Other environmentally friendly features include new green spaces and shady landscaping, which help hold down summer temperatures, absorb sound and contribute to air quality, while wireless computing environments allow students, faculty and staff to enjoy these outdoor spaces.  

Engaging the community

Clough also described ways in which new facilities are blurring the boundaries of the Tech campus, inviting engagement with our neighbors to our mutual benefit. To the east, the wide, pedestrian-friendly sidewalks and retail outlets of Technology Square invite the residents and workers of Pidlotown to mingle with the Tech community. To the west, the new R. Kirk Landon Learning Center provides childcare for the residents of the Home Park neighborhood as well as to Tech’s faculty, staff and students.  

Facilities are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the intersection of Georgia Tech and the Atlanta community, Clough said. He cited campus organizations for the countless ways they volunteer to improve the quality of life for Tech’s neighbors.  

Virtual intersections

Clough noted that although the reshaping of campus is creating new physical intersections of innovation, Tech also has many useful and creative connections that are less tangible.  

He cited several examples of intersections in cyberspace, including Marshall Groves, an Air Force pilot who took his laptop computer with him to Iraq and continues to pursue his master’s degree in mechanical engineering over the Internet from his tent in the desert.  

The "semi-living artist" uses the Internet to send electronic signals from rat neuron cells on the Georgia Tech campus to a robotic drawing arm located in Perth, Australia. In the Ivan Allen College, the history and literature of the past intersect with the sophisticated technology of the future.  

Clough concluded his remarks by referring to Tech’s national ranking, which remains among the top ten public universities. "We have ample evidence beyond rankings that we are solidifying our position among the nation’s leaders, the history and literature of the past intersect with the sophisticated technology of the future."

For more information...

State of the Institute  
www.gatech.edu/president/sot
Engineering faculty gather to assess state of the College

Michael Hagerty
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

In a time of budgetary constraints, the College of Engineering must prioritize its goals and focus on investments that will yield maximum returns.

Dean Don Giddens delivered this news to his faculty at an annual town hall meeting, an open forum for assessing the state of the College and illuminating the road ahead.

Beginning with a recap of noteworthy events from the past 12 months, Giddens’ prepared remarks underlined the strategic themes and core values he has emphasized since assuming leadership of the College.

Highlights from the past year included three new school chairs — in biomedical, materials science and civil and environmental engineering — who have served in similar positions at other universities and who he said “bring a wealth of experience with a lot to offer Tech.”

He pointed out that two school name changes — to the School of Polymer, Textile and Fiber Engineering and the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering — “reflect significant changes in the direction of these schools.”

The College, he said, had also taken a formal position on the University of Georgia’s proposal to add three engineering majors to its curriculum, and passed its findings to President Wayne Clough and Provost Jean-Lou Chameau as a point of reference in discussions with University System Chancellor Tom Meredith.

Among the College’s significant changes was a reorganization of the dean’s office, which led to the creation of two part-time administrative positions: associate dean of interdisciplinary programs and the associate dean for academic affairs. Rather than independent entities, he said, both are modeled after and serve to augment the work of their Institute-level counterparts.

In spotlighting individual accomplishments and career milestones across the faculty, the dean expressed a need to prepare for the replacement of senior faculty members inching toward retirement.

“We have to ensure good opportunities for our young faculty,” Giddens said, commenting that while Tech has been successful at recruiting faculty from other universities, some schools are targeting Tech to enrich their own talent pools.

“We have strong leadership, but we have to think about developing strong leadership in our young faculty.”

Looking forward, Giddens stressed improving and expanding the educational opportunities open to undergraduates, and developing more financial aid.

“Georgia Tech is abysmal in granting scholarships, both need- and merit-based,” he said, suggesting it should be a priority for the next capital campaign.

The dearth of state funding, however, should not hinder faculty from innovation. The Georgia Tech Foundation, he said, manages a significant reserve of unallocated funds earmarked for the College, and encouraged faculty to look for ways to use those funds.

At the conclusion of his presentation, Giddens fielded questions from the faculty on the: faculty recruitment and retention; educational partnerships with international universities; and technology transfer.

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

FACES Program
www.coe.gatech.edu/programs/faces

School of Mechanical Engineering
www.me.gatech.edu

IN BRIEF:

Diploma eye manner and folksy humor helped many of us through rough times. Doug’s easy manner and folksy humor helped many of us through rough times...
Brown Bags/Conferences/Lectures

Oct. 9
The College of Computing’s GTISC Distinguished Lecture Series welcomes Martin Hellman, professor emeritus of electrical engineering at Stanford University, on “The Evolution of Public Key Cryptography,” at 2:30 p.m. in the MARC Auditorium.

Oct. 10
Georgia Tech’s Center for Assistive Technology and Environmental Access (CATEA) hosts a luncheon roundtable discussion on disability and accessibility issues in distance education, open to all faculty, staff and students. Lunch is provided; registration is required. For more information, call 894-0565 or e-mail barbara.christopher@coa.gatech.edu.

Oct. 11
The DuPree College of Management’s IMPACT Speaker Series welcomes William George, former CEO of Medtronic, at 4:30 p.m. in the LeCraw Auditorium.

Oct. 12
The Ferst Center for the Arts presents the W.C. Handy Blues All-Stars, featuring John Hammond, Charlie Musselwhite, Otis Taylor and Eric Bibb, at 7 p.m. Tech faculty and staff receive a 10 percent discount on tickets. Call 894-9600.

Classifieds

Appliances
European copper fondue set. New and in box. $70. Pictures available. Email sonia.gutkin@chbe.gatech.edu or call 894-8474.

Automobiles
1975 Ford F-100 pickup, manual shift, longbed, runs well, needs steering work, $750. Call 894-3686 or e-mail swankd@bellsouth.net.


1993 Toyota 4-Runner, Black, V6, 5-speed, 128K miles, good condition, brand new tires, power windows, locks & steering, sunroof, CD, alloy wheels, tinted windows, $6,000. Call 678-462-1656 or e-mail pnwcombi@bellsouth.net.

1994 Chevrolet Cavalier. White 4-door sedan, 99K miles, original owner, $1,400. Call 894-5476 or e-mail mercedes.saghir@arch.gatech.edu.

1995 Ford Contour GL Burgundy, 60K miles, automatic, power steering, locks and windows, cruise, good a/c, AM/FM/CD, $2,700. Call 404-385-2050 or email danielc@cnx.physics.gatech.edu.

1996 BMW 328i. Convertible, silver w/gray leather, black top, sport package, 718 miles, new a/c, newly tuned, convertible top, $16,999 OBO. Pictures available. Call 404-936-8152 or e-mail gammehop@hotmail.com.


1997 Audi A4 2.8 Quattro V6, 5-speed, 4-door sedan. Excellent condition, 109K miles, all options. Very nice car, pictures available. Asking $10,000. Contact James at gjl800@prism.gatech.edu.

1997 blue Mitsubishi Mirage. In good condition, 86K miles, 2-door, automatic. Asking $2,700 negotiable. Call 404-579-8582 or e-mail tgd3@gatech.edu.

1998 GMC Sonoma SLS pickup. Silver, a/c, AM/FM/CD, dual airbags. One owner, good condition, complete service records. 128K HR miles, $4,600. Call 894-5616 or e-mail pam.alks@business.gatech.edu.

2000 Mitsubishi Eclipse GT. Original owner; silver with black leather; 5-speed; access control system. Excellent condition; loaded, all service records; brakes replaced this year; $10,500. E-mail rick.shadle@gatech.edu or call 770-654-0771.

Dell Inspiron 8200, Pentium 4, 1.8GHz, 512MB RAM, 40GB hard drive, WinXP, Office XP, 2 batteries, DVD, CD-RW, internal ethernet/wireless ethernet. Leather case, $2,000 OBO. E-mail dari.molavi@gtri.gatech.edu or call 894-4352.

Furniture
Girls dresser w/mirror & desk w/chair. White trimmed w/gold, (French Provincial-1960s), dresser is full-size. Dresser, desk & mirror in good condition. Chair worn but still sturdy, $175 for both. E-mail bugarner@gtri.gatech.edu.

REAL ESTATE/ROOMMATES
Room for rent in furnished house less than 1 mile from Decatur Square. Seeking female, non-smoker graduate student or professional who likes animals. Rent $517/month + utilities. E-mail marsha.aliens@catea.org or call 770-807-6811.

Walk to Tech, 1BR/1BA completely renovated condo w/balcony view of Fox, Pool, gym, entertainment room, concierge, covered parking, $1499.00. Call Teri, 770-365-7200.

Wanted: Ford Bronco, full-size Chevy Blazer, International Scout, or full-size pickup truck. Call Daniel at 770-565-3242 or e-mail dhoff86@att.net.

Computers
Garmin GPS V Deluxe. Includes unlock codes for North America, serial cable, newest firmware. Original packaging and docs. $400 OBO. E-mail dari.molavi@gtri.gatech.edu or call 894-4352.

Ferrari
Girls dressing w/mirror & desk w/chair. White trimmed w/gold. (French Provincial-1960s). Dresser is full-size. Dresser, desk & mirror in good condition. Chair worn but still sturdy, $175 for both. E-mail bugarner@gtri.gatech.edu.

Miscellaneous
ARC-registered Boxer puppy, 7 mos. old male, reverse brindle. Beautiful puppy needs someone who can give him lots of attention. Call Deanna at 770-919-6955 or e-mail dcannasheal@hotmail.com.

Kittens ready for adoption 10/6. Two males, two females. Pictures available. Call 894-3512 or e-mail mona.meddin@omed.gatech.edu.