Georgia Tech names Virginia Tech's Dave Braine director of Athletics

Citing success in building Virginia Tech into national prominence in football and basketball while also earning academic achievement in the classroom, Georgia Tech President Wayne Clough named Virginia Tech's Dave Braine the sixth athletics director in the history of intercollegiate athletics at the Institute.

Braine, 55, who comes to Atlanta after a successful 10-year tenure at the Blacksburg, Va. school, helped lead the Hokies to back-to-back berths in the Sugar and Orange Bowls in football, an NIT Championship in basketball and no fewer than nine Atlantic 10 Conference titles. Just as impressively, Braine has overseen an increase in women’s athletics and funding that makes Virginia Tech one of only nine schools in the nation in compliance with Title IX.

"Dave Braine has an outstanding record in collegiate athletics," Clough said. "For the past nine-and-a-half years, David has been the athletic director at Virginia Tech, where I came to know him during my tenure as dean of Engineering there." By the time I left Virginia Tech in 1993, David was well on his way to rebuilding the entire athletic infrastructure there and earning respect across campus and across the country," he continued. Braine has presided over a tremendous resurgence at Virginia Tech. He led Tech into the Big East Conference in football and the Atlantic 10 for other sports. The football team has been to four straight bowl games. The men’s basketball team won the NIT in 1995 and made an NCAA Tournament appearance in 1996. The women’s basketball team achieved back-to-back NCAA Tournament appearances in 1994 and 1995 and enjoyed three straight 20-win seasons. He added three women’s sports—soccer, lacrosse and softball—bringing the total number of intercollegiate sports at Virginia Tech to 21.

"Perhaps most importantly to a school with a curriculum like Georgia Tech, " said Clough. "David’s program has a current graduation rate for student-athletes of 70 percent—12 percent above the national average for Division I schools."

Clough’s announcement culminates a 26-day search that began May 9, when Homer Rice, Georgia Tech’s director of Athletics for the past 17 years, announced his retirement.

"I’m excited about the opportunity to become the director of Athletics at Georgia Tech," said Braine. "I consider it a great honor to continue and build upon the foundation which Homer Rice has established."

A highly regarded veteran collegiate administrator, Braine has ties to Georgia Tech, the Atlantic Coast Conference and to ACC Commissioner Gene Corrigan. A native of Grove City, Pa., Braine was a three-time football letterman (1962-64) at the University of North Carolina, earning both his bachelor’s (1965) and his master’s degrees (1966) from UNC.

Braine served as a defensive assistant football coach at Georgia Tech for two years in 1974-75 under Pepper Rodgers, and he coached one of the nation’s top-ranked secondary units in 1974 which featured All-American Randy Rhino and finished 10th nationally in pass defense.

In 1976, Braine joined the football staff at the University of Virginia under then-head coach Dick Bestwick. He became assistant athletic director with an emphasis on football administration and facilities at Virginia under Corrigan in 1978. He then took a similar post at Fresno State in 1983 and was promoted to associate athletic director in 1984. In 1985, he was named director of Athletics at Marshall University, a post he held until being named director of Athletics at Virginia Tech on Jan. 1, 1988. He is currently in his 13th year as a Division I director of Athletics.

"Dave Braine helped raise Virginia Tech athletics to a new level," said Virginia Tech President Paul Torgersen. "He gave Virginia Tech’s admittance to the Big East football conference and Tech’s participation in the Atlantic 10 conference for our other sports." Braine is married to the former Carole Bowles of Richmond, Va., who is a graduate of Lynchburg College. The couple has four children.

Eckert receives Tech's top faculty honor

Gwendolyn Glenn

Communications

Since he was a graduate student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the early 1960s, Dr. Charles Eckert knew that he wanted to make teaching a lifetime career. Eckert, a professor of Physical Chemistry and Georgia Tech’s J. Erskine Love, Jr. Professor of Chemical Engineering, said even though the salaries are higher in the private sector, he has always felt fortunate to be a teacher.

"There isn’t anything that I want that I don’t have...The rewards most important to me are the growth of young people, undergraduates, grads, postdocs and the young faculty that I mentor," Eckert said.

Eckert’s humble spirit and his excellence as a scholar and researcher were recognized at Georgia Tech’s annual Faculty/Staff Honors Luncheon where he was named the 1997 Distinguished Professor—the most prestigious honor for faculty members at Georgia Tech. Recipients of this award are chosen for their scholarly leadership and achievements, teaching ability and contributions to the personal and professional development of Tech students. At the awards luncheon, Eckert was presented with a plaque and $15,000, provided through a grant from the class of 1934.

Not one to take all of the credit for his accomplishments, Eckert said being chosen as Tech’s Distinguished Professor is a special honor that he shares with the various teams he works with in his teaching and research endeavors.

"No such award is for an individual because people at this level often don’t work alone. This is a result of the efforts of grad students, collaborators, post doctoral associates both at Tech and elsewhere...I’m delighted that the research team we’ve built here has been recognized this way," Eckert said.

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Facilities reorganizes to better serve campus

Since his appointment in 1995, Senior Vice President Bob Thompson has been working with other top administrators to fine-tune Georgia Tech's administrative and financial operations by: improving customer services, increasing efficiency, and providing clear lines of authority, responsibility and accountability. In continuing this process, he recently approved a reorganization of the Facilities unit, effective July 1.

The purpose of the reorganization, said Chuck Rhode, associate vice president (AVP) for Facilities, "is to improve our ability to design, remodel, repair, construct and maintain facilities."

Both Rhodes and Thompson are confident that the changes in organization and responsibilities will correct deficiencies pointed out by the KPMG Peat Marwick report, the 1996 ISES Facilities Study and other reports in recent years—including functional and operational overlap within the Facilities organization.

"For example," said Thompson, "the Plant Operations Division is responsible for engineering design, while the Office of Campus Architecture is responsible for project programming and architectural design. The two units perform closely related functions, but in the past have been physically separate and under different leaders."

The reorganization will combine all capital project management, design, engineering, and construction processes into a single directorate at 915 Atlantic Drive, the King Building. This newly created directorate will provide comprehensive management of facilities projects, from inception, through design and construction, to final acceptance by the user.

The director of Design and Construction—a new position—will report directly to the Rhode. The reorganization will be implemented by physically moving the Office of Campus Architecture from the Tech Tower to the King Building, and by conducting a nationwide search to fill the position of director of Design and Construction.

In addition, both the KPMG and ISES reports recommend that the Campus Environmental Health and Safety function be removed from the Plant Operations Division to report directly to the AVP for Facilities. This realignment will give greater visibility to environmental, health, and safety functions and will provide greater autonomy in reporting.

Campus Police will continue to report to the Rhode, but Chief Jack Vickery will no longer be responsible for parking and transportation. Instead, these operations will be overseen by John Nichte, the new director of Parking and Transportation who reports to the Rosalind Meyers, associate vice president for Auxiliaries.

The Plant Operations division will be redesignated as Facilities Operations and Maintenance (FOM) Division. O & M staff will report directly to the AVP for Facilities. The new division will have primary functional responsibility for maintaining buildings, grounds and infrastructure, as well as operation of all utility systems.

Finally, the financial and administrative functions for all facilities areas will be combined under one staff function reporting to the AVP for Facilities. The office will be the business, warehousing and personnel/administrative services headquarter.

"We feel that the impending capital construction program demands a single entity responsible for design, construction and facility commissioning," said Rhode. "This will pay real dividends for Georgia Tech. We also want to place greater emphasis on security and safety, maintaining our facilities in the best possible condition, and keeping our campus environmentally sound. This new organization will help us accomplish all of these goals."

Distinguished Professor, continued from page 1

Eckert came to Georgia Tech in 1989 from the University of Illinois, where he headed the Chemical Engineering Department. He said he was attracted by the Institute’s collegiality, opportunities for multidisciplinary work, partnerships with industry and the opportunity to build a world-class graduate program. "The reality has far exceeded my expectations," he said. "The award helps me appreciate what Georgia Tech and its supporters have put into our operation and makes me even more eager to continue to seek out socially beneficial applications of fundamental science."

In addition to teaching courses, directing student theses, conducting seminars and outside research projects, Eckert is also director of the Specialty Separations Center at Tech. His research there focuses on taking the knowledge of how molecules interact with each other, and applying those results to chemical processes to make products that are cheaper, better and purer by environmental standards.

Eckert, a native of St. Louis, received his bachelor’s and master’s from MIT, and his Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley. In 1977 he received the Ipatieff Prize from the American Chemical Society and in 1973, he was awarded the Alan P. Colburn Award—the highest honor given to promising engineers under the age of 35 by the American Chemical Society.

Eckert says getting students to think independently is the real product of the Distinguished Professor Award because he’s such a great teacher. Many of his students are teaching now because of the example he set," Johnston said.

One such former student is Dr. Joan Brennecke, the first tenured female professor in the College of Engineering at Notre Dame. "I had every intention of working in industry," Brennecke said, "but changed my mind because of him and his example."

Brennecke described "Chuck," which is what Eckert insists that his students call him, as "a brilliant researcher and mentor who truly cares about students and their professional and personal development. He always challenged me to do the best that I could and to develop my own creativity to come up with solutions to problems," she said.

Eckert says getting students to think independently is the biggest challenge that he and others face as teachers. "I try to make students see that it isn’t enough to get a numerical answer but they have to understand what’s involved...to step back from the detail of their work and see how things fit together and how they can be improved," he explained.

Former student Dr. David Tomasko was so impressed with Eckert’s teaching style and skills, that when Eckert came to Georgia Tech, Tomasko transferred from the University of Illinois to Tech so that he could keep Eckert as an advisor. Tomasko, an assistant professor of Chemical Engineering at Ohio State University, sees Eckert as "not only someone who knows how to get the best out of students in all situations, but in the classroom, he can make a class of 40 students seem like an intimate setting."

"The real product of a university," said Eckert, "is people and I’m lucky to be able to get satisfaction from that...the legacy I want to leave is bright motivated former students."
1997 Faculty/Staff honors and recognition

Georgia Tech Chapter Sigma Xi Awards
Young Faculty Awards
Shi Jin, assistant professor, Mathematics
Gregory D. Abowd, assistant professor, Computing

Faculty Best Paper Awards
Michael Lacey, associate professor, Mathematics
Loren D. Williams, associate professor, Chemistry
Lawrence A. Bottomley, professor, Chemistry

Sustained Research Award
Ronald F. Fox, Regents Professor, Physics

Administrative Service Award
Patricia Ledon, financial manager II, Aerospace Engineering

From left: William H. Rudd, Mechanical Specialist, Aerospace Engineering, received an Outstanding Research Support Personnel Performance Award; Donna L. Chronic, horticulturist II, Plant Operations, and Brenda B. Bruce, development officer I, Civil and Environmental Engineering, received Outstanding Staff Performance awards, and Dr. John Endicott, director of the Center for International Strategy Technology and Policy (CISTP), received the ANAK Society Award. Photos by Yoni Alid and Stanley Leary

Georgia Tech Foundation Professional Achievement Awards
Lillian V. Allen, data entry specialist, Alumni Association
Amelia R. Gambino, associate director, Communications and director of Publications

Georgia Institute of Technology
Faculty Research Awards
Outstanding Doctoral Thesis Advisor
Narayanan M. Komerath, professor, Aerospace Engineering

Outstanding Achievement in Research
Program Development
Ben T. Zinn, Davis S. Lewis Jr. Chair, Aerospace Engineering

Outstanding Faculty Research Author
Timothy A. Salthouse, professor, Psychology

Outstanding Faculty Leadership for the Development of Graduate Research Assistants
Lakshmi N. Sankar, professor, Aerospace Engineering

Outstanding Research Support Personnel Performance
Donna E. Brown, administrative coordinator, Civil and Environmental Engineering
Judith A. Fitzpatrick, project support analyst, Management and Project Support Department, Georgia Tech Research Institute

Outstanding Service Award
Alan V. Larson, professor and associate chair, Mechanical Engineering

The E. Roe Stamps Excellence in Teaching Award
10 Years or Less
Rebecca B. Merrens, assistant professor, Literature, Communication, and Culture

Outstanding Interdisciplinary Activity Award
William Ditto, assistant professor, Physics

1997 Strap Graduates
Randy Barrone, public safety officer, Georgia Tech Police
Ronnie L. Zachary, air conditioning mechanic, Plant Operations

1997 SUPERTRAIN Graduates

11 Years or More
August W. Giebelhaus, coordinator, Undergraduate Programs, History, Technology, and Society (11 years or more)

Class of 1940 W. Roane Beard Outstanding Teacher Award
David M. Collard, assistant professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry

Class of 1940 W. Howard Ector Outstanding Teacher Award
Robert G. Roper, professor, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences

Outstanding Continuing Education Award
Edward B. Joy, professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering

Outstanding Innovative Use of Education Technology
Nelson C. Baker, associate professor, Civil Engineering
Mark Guzdial, assistant professor, Computing

Outstanding Staff Performance
Shirley J. Durdin, administrative coordinator, Chemistry and Biochemistry

Editor's Note: The Faculty/Staff Honors Luncheon was held Thursday, May 22 in the Student Center Ballroom. Dr. Daniel S. Papp, special assistant to the president, was the Master of Ceremonies. Award presenters were: Deborah Covin-Wilson, director, Human Resource Development; Robert K. Thompson, senior vice president for Administration and Finance; President Wayne Clough; Michael Matteson, professor, Chemical Engineering; Bill Other, director of Success Programs; Charles Brown, Georgia Tech Foundation; Jean-Lou Chameau, vice provost for research and dean of Graduate Studies; Gary May, associate provost, Chemical Engineering; Dean Robert Hawkins, Ivan Allen College; Charles Liotta, professor, Chemistry, and Michael Thomas, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs.
Courses/ Seminars

June 9

The division of Distance Learning, Continuing Education and Outreach presents "Introduction to Multimedia," with Marketing Consultant Warren Laufland and Dr. Peter McGuire, professor of Communication and Co-Director of Georgia Tech’s Center for New Media Education and Research. The charge for the all-day class is $275. For more information, call 894-2547, or visit http://www.comed.gatech.edu.

June 10

The Office of Human Resources (OHR) presents "Effective Communication, Part I." from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in the HRD training room. Part II will be held from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. June 11.

The division of Distance Learning, Continuing Education and Outreach presents "Overview of Multimedia Hardware and Software," with Edward Price, BSEE, assistant director of Georgia Tech’s Interactive Media Technology Center (IMTC), and Andy Quay, research-engineer at IMTC. The charge for the all-day class is $295. For more information, call 894-2547, or visit http://www.comed.gatech.edu

* Faculty and staff should fax their completed registration form to 894-2666 to register for OHR classes. Anyone who does not receive an e-mail confirmation should call 894-2249.

Ongoing

"Watercolors" by Jo Lackey will be on display through August 30 at the Bill Moore Student Success Center's Hall of Success. For more information, contact Robin Coughage at 894-1953.

The "1997 Student Art Show" by Georgia Tech students, featuring photography, pottery, paintings and drawings, will be on display in Richards Gallery through September 1. The exhibit is sponsored by Student Center Arts Committee. The gallery is located in the Robins Student Center Arts."