A Year of New Opportunities, ‘Goodbyes’

Like most years at Georgia Tech, 2011 was filled with new accomplishments and initiatives and personnel changes. But the campus community also said a few “goodbyes.”

Before leaving 2011 behind, take a moment to look back at some of this year’s buzzworthy moments. It’s impossible to capture every notable thing that happened at Tech on one page, but we’ve tried our best to touch on as many as possible.

Enjoy the trip down memory lane!

From left to right: President Barack Obama named President G. P. “Bud” Peterson to the Advanced Manufacturing Partnership steering committee; the Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons opened; Gary May was named dean of the College of Engineering; Tech researchers gathered for the Focus on Japan forum following the earthquake and tsunami in Japan; Tech researchers solved the mystery of how fire ants self-assemble into a waterproof raft; Tech alumna Sandra Magnus participated in the last NASA space shuttle program mission; and Junior’s closed its doors after decades of serving the Tech community.

Biosystems Funding Among Top Tech Legislative Priorities

As the 2012 legislative session begins this month, Georgia Tech’s Office of Government and Community Relations will be focused on conveying Tech’s legislative priorities to Georgia’s leaders.

“Our number one priority for this year is securing $59 million in bonds to fund the construction of the Engineered Biosystems Building (EBB), which will provide 200,000 square feet of multidisciplinary research space,” said Dene Sheheane, executive director of Government and Community Relations. “It’s a facility that will allow for collaboration across campus and across institutions and help provide a competitive advantage for the state.”

If the General Assembly and Governor Nathan Deal approve the funding, Tech will leverage it with $34 million in private philanthropy to build the EBB, which will likely attract non-state investment and economic development opportunities to the area.

Sheheane and his colleagues will also advocate for the following initiatives:

• Secure $102.6 million in new formula funds to be shared

AMELIA PAVLIK
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Library Launches Sci-Fi Collection Website

Science fiction enthusiasts can now search the Georgia Tech Library catalog for more than 10,000 items available in the Tech Science Fiction Collection.

The library recently unveiled the new Georgia Tech Science Fiction Collection website in an effort to increase access to one of the Southeast’s most unique literary and educational collections.

“The Georgia Tech Science Fiction Collection is a popular resource supporting undergraduate and graduate education, scholarly research and recreational reading on campus,” said Ryan Speer, chair of the library’s Science Fiction Committee and digital collections archivist. “In addition, the collection offers unique opportunities for community interaction and outreach.”

The website includes several features to help readers learn

AMELIA PAVLIK
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

NEWS BRIEFS

Jefferson Science Fellowship Deadline Is Jan. 13

Faculty members interested in applying for a Jefferson Science Fellowship should do so by Jan. 13. For more information, visit:
http://tinyurl.com/7hfnp6r

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Added on Campus

Drivers of electric vehicles may now recharge their systems at the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center. Learn more at
http://tinyurl.com/89muxc7

Registration for OPTIONS Classes Opens This Week

From dance to arts and crafts, the OPTIONS program offers something for everyone. If you are interested in a noncredit enrichment class this spring, registration is open until Jan. 22. Get all the details at
http://tinyurl.com/6ncek9r

Library Launches Sci-Fi Collection Website

GEORGIA TECH LIBRARY

The library recently unveiled the new Georgia Tech Science Fiction Collection website in an effort to increase access to one of the Southeast’s most unique literary and educational collections.

“The Georgia Tech Science Fiction Collection is a popular resource supporting undergraduate and graduate education, scholarly research and recreational reading on campus,” said Ryan Speer, chair of the library’s Science Fiction Committee and digital collections archivist. “In addition, the collection offers unique opportunities for community interaction and outreach.”

The website includes several features to help readers learn

SCIF, continued on page 4

SCI-FI, continued on page 4

LEGALISITVE, continued on page 4

ASK AWAY

How do I get a copy of my annual statement from Teacher’s Retirement System of Georgia?

To view a copy of your statement, you should set up an account at the Teacher’s Retirement System of Georgia website. Go to www.trsga.com and click on “Account Login.” Select “Active Member,” and then opt to sign up for a new account. Once you’ve logged into your account, you will have access to information regarding statements and beneficiaries.

Have a Tech-related question that you’d like answered? Email it to editor@comm.gatech.edu.

Continued on Page 3

www.whistle.gatech.edu
EVENTS

ARTS & CULTURE

January 28
The Whistle (right) and his wife, Jerri, riding camels at Qasr al Sarab, a desert resort they visited during their year living in Abu Dhabi.

January 11
The Office of Institute Diversity will open the 2012 Georgia Tech Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration with a keynote address from civil rights leader Myrlie Evers-Williams at 11 a.m. in the Student Center Ballroom.

January 17
The Stem Cell Engineering Center Seminar Series presents Paul Krebsbach of the University of Michigan at 11 a.m. in room 1128, IBB.

January 18
A workshop sponsored by the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning titled “Why Don’t My Students Think I’m Groovy? Engaging Millennial Learners” will be led by Christy Price of Dalton State College at 11 a.m. in the Piedmont Room, Student Center Commons. Register at http://tinyurl.com/3hh2zjg

January 19
The School of Building Construction will host a lecture by Harvey Bernstein titled “Construction Outlook” at 6 p.m. in the Reinhart-Pierce Family Auditorium.

The Aerospace Engineering Distinguished Lecture Seminar will feature Gunvendri Raviachandran of the California Institute of Technology, who will lecture on “High Pressure Hugoniot Measurements in Solids Using Mach Reflections” at 3:30 p.m. in room G442, Montgomery Knight Building.

January 25
The IMPACT speaker series will feature Tom Tierney, chairman and co-founder of the Bridgepavian Group, at 4:30 p.m. in LeCraw Auditorium, College of Management.

January 26
The College of Architecture Research Forum will feature faculty member Benjamin Flowers. The College of Architecture Research Forum occurs on the last Thursday of every month during the academic year at 11 a.m. in the Architecture Library, West Architecture Building Atrium.

CONFERENCES AND LECTURES

January 11
The STEM Cell Engineering Center Seminar Series presents Paul Krebsbach of the University of Michigan at 11 a.m. in room 1128, IBB.

January 18
A workshop sponsored by the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning titled “Why Don’t My Students Think I’m Groovy? Engaging Millennial Learners” will be led by Christy Price of Dalton State College at 11 a.m. in the Piedmont Room, Student Center Commons. Register at http://tinyurl.com/3hh2zjg

January 19
The School of Building Construction will host a lecture by Harvey Bernstein titled “Construction Outlook” at 6 p.m. in the Reinhart-Pierce Family Auditorium.

The Aerospace Engineering Distinguished Lecture Seminar will feature Gunvendri Raviachandran of the California Institute of Technology, who will lecture on “High Pressure Hugoniot Measurements in Solids Using Mach Reflections” at 3:30 p.m. in room G442, Montgomery Knight Building.

January 25
The IMPACT speaker series will feature Tom Tierney, chairman and co-founder of the Bridgepavian Group, at 4:30 p.m. in LeCraw Auditorium, College of Management.

January 26
The College of Architecture Research Forum will feature faculty member Benjamin Flowers. The College of Architecture Research Forum occurs on the last Thursday of every month during the academic year at 11 a.m. in the Architecture Library, West Architecture Building Atrium.

Campus News

White Launches Department in Abu Dhabi

INDUSTRIAL & SYSTEMS ENGINEERING

When Chelsea “Chip” White was offered the chance to assist in the launch of an industrial and systems engineering department and a logistics center at Khalifa University in Abu Dhabi, he eagerly accepted.

“The supply chain and logistics industry is a particularly important one for the United Arab Emirates (UAE) because of its heavy reliance on trade — for example, more than 85 percent of food is imported,” said White, the Schneider National Chair in Transportation and Logistics in the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering (SyE). “Thus, there was particular interest in the development of an industrial and systems engineering department and a logistics center at Khalifa University.”

White spent a portion of 2010 and 2011 living in Abu Dhabi, recruiting faculty and helping the new department gain accreditation. Here’s more about his experience.

Describe Khalifa University.

Khalifa University has only been around for a few years, so it has a small student body population, who are mostly undergraduates. The campus itself is also much smaller (there are only six buildings) than Georgia Tech. Unlike other academic institutions in the region, Khalifa is research intensive and is the first public co-educational university in the UAE.

Are the faculty hiring and accreditation processes different in Abu Dhabi from what they are here?

Hiring at Khalifa is essentially identical to hiring at any research-intensive university in the United States that also wants to be accredited for the quality of its education. The accreditation process is very similar to ABET, which accredits college and university programs in the disciplines of applied science, computing, engineering and engineering technology. Any academic engineering unit in the United States would seek ABET accreditation.

What was an average day like?

It was filled with meetings and focused on issues such as the design of a curriculum, the recruitment of new faculty and the identification of areas of research important to the local community. Time that was left over was spent interacting on research with faculty at Khalifa and with students and faculty back at Georgia Tech.

What were some of the challenges you faced working in a different time zone and with a different workweek structure?

The weekend in Abu Dhabi is Friday and Saturday, with the work week being Sunday through Thursday. That meant there were only three overlapping days between here and there, which made my work week stretch out to almost seven days a week. In addition to the work-week difference, I was eight hours ahead of my research colleagues and graduate students in the United States, making it challenging to communicate. In a way, my day started twice. I would get up and be at Khalifa at 8 a.m. UAE time. When I left work at 5 p.m. the day for my colleagues and graduate students back in the States was just beginning.

Name a few of your most memorable moments on the trip.

During Ramadan, the Crown Prince of UAE hosts Iftar lectures, which occur right before Iftar, the evening meal when Muslims break their fast after sundown, and I attended two of them. We also enjoyed a weekend at a desert resort and a day at a camel festival with camel races, camel beauty contests and camel milking contests.

What advice do you have for colleagues who might be asked to do something similar in another country?

Learn and understand the new culture as much as possible. Be ready for, and learn to enjoy, surprises — because there will be surprises. Admittedly, the vast majority of surprises we experienced in Abu Dhabi fell into the category of delights.

Report Identifies 6 Future Media Megatrends

DARA MADZIMOYO

GEORGIA TECH RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The coming years will bring increased personalization, innovation and flexibility in the media landscape, according to the FutureMedia Outlook 2012, a multimedia report offering Georgia Tech’s annual view on the future of media and its impact on people, business and society over the next five to seven years.

“Georgia Tech’s work in Future Media is part of our new Institute for People and Technology,” said President G. P. “Bud” Peterson. “By partnering with business and industry on interdisciplinary research, we are able to identify trends and challenges and work to develop transformative solutions.”

According to FutureMedia Outlook 2012, the following six megatrends will have a pervasive impact:

- Smart Data: In an increasingly noisy world, we’ll have to sift, filter and be smarter about what matters.
- People Platforms: Beyond “true personalization,” people will not just be consumers. They will be socially driven platforms made of algorithms from personal and associated data that they design and tailor themselves.
- Content Integrity: Pervasive mobile devices, sprawling networks, clouds and multilayered platforms have made it more difficult to detect and address our digital vulnerabilities, drawing us to trusted content sources.
- Nimble Media: Media is evolving from a set of fixed commodities into an energetic, pervasive medium that allows people to navigate across platforms and through different content narratives.
- Sixth Sense: Extraordinary innovations in mixed reality will change the way we see, hear, taste, touch and make sense of the world — giving us a new and powerful sixth sense.
- Collaboration: We will harness the power of many in an increasingly conversational and participatory world.

For each of the six megatrends, the Outlook 2012 presents fresh and objective insights into those technologies and business practices that will significantly impact the converging media ecosystem. In addition, the report includes demonstrative clips and video interviews with leading Georgia Tech researchers offering real-world examples of how the Institute is proactively innovating in these areas.

http://tinyurl.com/79qvxkr
2011’s Buzzworthy Moments

Strategic Steps
- Plans for an interdisciplinary “X Degree” were announced.
- The Center for 21st Century Universities, which is led by Rich DeMillo, was created.
- The Office of Human Resources launched TimeOut, and International Students and Scholar Services rolled out iStart to improve institutional effectiveness.

Community Changes
- Zimride, a carpool matching service, launched.
- North Avenue Dining Hall opened, offering a variety of international cuisines.
- Improvements were (and still are being) made to the North Avenue sidewalks and landscape.
- The Campus Recreation Center began offering a Break Camp for employees’ children to provide care during the school year.
- Weekly farmers markets sponsored by the Student Center and Dining Services were held throughout the year.

Research Realizations
- A vibrating fingertip glove was created to improve one’s touch.
- An iPhone application was developed to monitor Parkinson’s disease.
- Georgia Tech Research Institute received $10 million to lead the Homeland Open Security Technology program.

People Points
- M. Scott Morris became associate vice president of human resources.
- Robert T. McGrath became vice president and director of the Georgia Tech Research Institute.
- Jane Chumley Ammons was named chair of the Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering.
- Vice President for Campus Services Rosalind Meyers announced her retirement.

For complete stories regarding these milestones, visit the Georgia Tech News Room at www.gatech.edu/newsroom.
**Staffer, Husband Lost 275 Pounds Together**

AMELIA PAVLIK
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

If indulging in all of the goodies that go hand-in-hand with the holidays has left you with a spare tire around your waist that you are eager to lose, Sheree Gibson has some advice for you.

“Over the past year, my husband, Marlon, and I have collectively lost 275 pounds, said Gibson, area manager for the Freshman Experience Program at Georgia Tech. “We didn’t want to have surgery and didn’t use any magic pills. We did it at the old fashioned way — by changing our diets and exercise habits.”

When their physician told them they were both at risk for developing diabetes and high blood pressure, it was a wake-up call.

“We changed our lifestyles to the point where we limited our intake of livestock meat and processed foods and increased our fiber intake,” Gibson said. “Plus, we started working with a trainer, walking three times a week, cycling and incorporating the elliptical machine into our training.”

During the entire process, Gibson stayed in close contact with her physician, who has confirmed that she’s no longer at risk for diabetes and high blood pressure.

None of her weight loss success would have been possible without the support that Gibson and her husband provided to each other. And both have been so pleased with their progress, they have set new goals.

“I’d still like to lose 15 pounds and, if I can get my waist down to a 29-inch size, I’d like to run the Peachtree [Road Race] this July,” Gibson said.

Read on to learn more about Gibson and her time at Tech.

**How did you get to your current position?**

“I earned my undergraduate degree at The Ohio State University and my master’s at Bowling Green State University. When it was time to get a job, I decided to come south because I prefer the warm weather. I started at Tech in 2003 as a hall director for the Freshman Experience, a housing program that aims to help students build a solid personal and academic foundation during their first year, and moved into my current position in 2007.

**What are a few things you want people to know about your job?**

“We don’t plan programs and games — we plan programming on everything from time management to the co-op programs so that students can succeed personally and academically during their time at Tech. Also, we don’t work a 9-to-5 job. There’s always the occasional crisis in the middle of the night.

**What piece of technology could you not live without professionally and personally?**

“My iPhone. Which do you prefer: Facebook, Twitter or a world without all of this social media stuff? I love Facebook! It’s so neat to see everyone’s pictures and status updates. What is the best advice you’ve ever received? My grandmother told me that “Experience is a dear teacher, but a fool knows no other.” This means that you can experience things on your own, but there are others out there who have already been through what you’re going through. Look to them for wisdom.

If you could have dinner with one person, who would it be? I would like to meet W.E.B. DuBois. I was a sociology major in college because I became fascinated with him at an early age.

**Where is your favorite place to have lunch, and what do you order?**

“The Vortex — I love the black bean burger with cheese and the sweet potato fries.

**What is something that we didn’t cover that you’d like people to know about you?**

“I went to boarding school for high school, and I really enjoyed that experience.

**In Memoriam:** Myrna Roberts, GTRI

Myrna Steel Roberts, 34, an Electronic Systems Laboratory research associate at the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI), died on Dec. 18.

Roberts began working at GTRI in 2009. Services were held at Alpharetta First United Methodist Church last month. In lieu of flowers, the family has suggested that donations may be sent to the Sikh Cell Foundation.

**SCI-FI, continued from page 1**

about and navigate the collection. An optimized search box on the homepage allows readers to search only material available in the collection, including DVDs and archives.

Currently, the collection includes more than 10,000 science fiction and fantasy novels printed between 1930 and 1990, more than 1,000 science fiction periodical issues, and more than 150 science fiction films and television series.

Former Georgia Tech Literature Professor Irving “Bud” Foote laid the groundwork for the collection by donating his personal book and magazine collection to archives. Since then, the collection has grown through other donations and library purchases. For more information on the Georgia Tech Science Fiction Collection, contact Sper at 894-9421.

**COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING**

**CLASSIFIEDS**

28R/2BA loft with garage in historic building with gated entrance at 434 Manilla St., #103. Half-block walking distance from Georgia Tech. Large kitchen with stainless appliances. Extra large master suite with double vanities, whirlpool tub, walk-in shower and walk-in closet. Communal rooftop deck, a grill and patio furniture. $339,900. Contact Carolyn Maders at 404-797-7283.

Well-maintained, charming 28R/2BA with storage units with hardwood floors throughout and large, landscaped, fenced backyard with shed. Off-street, six miles to Tech and short walk to East Atlantic Village. Must see! $1,075/month. Call Chris at 770-852-7725.


**MISCELLANEOUS**

Stainless microwave, new, $60. Love seat, couch one to two condition, with two pillows, $50. Pub table (mango wood base, solid wood top), two vinyl chairs, and one with upholstered seats — like new, $65. Two upholstered chairs, solid wood legs, $20. Email sherrig@gmail.com.

Apple 140GB G4 and 11-inch Apple monitor. $150, fully loaded. 2GB RAM/ 4 hard drives (870GB) RAID 2 CD/DVD burner. Wi-Fi enabled. Mavic wheel set. Like-new condition. $105 OBO. Call 404-894-2980 or 404-720p video, waterproof to 180 feet, used once, asking $105 OBO. Call 404-894-2980 or 404-421-6481.


**LEGISLATIVE, continued from page 1**

by all University System of Georgia (USG) institutions in support of credit hour enrollment growth. “With student populations increasing and no funding increases in 2011, the system needs financial assistance when it comes to this day-to-day operating funds,” Sheheane said.

• Secure $50 million in major repair and rehabilitation funds to be used by all USG institutions to repair aging facilities. “We need more than $100 million at Tech to cover our deferred maintenance needs, so any funds received would be put toward maintaining safe and operable facilities at Tech,” Sheheane added.

• Strengthen support for Tech’s “B-Units.” These units include the Enterprise Innovation Institute and the Georgia Tech Research Institute, which both leverage state funds to attract external investment to the state.

“Thanks to the focus of President Peterson and his Executive Leadership Team, we have been able to forge great relationships with legislative leaders, and we have already been working over the past few months to share our priorities,” Sheheane said. “The impact of Georgia Tech and our other university system institutions is well known at the Capitol, and we will work to continue sharing this story.”

During the legislative session, the Office of Government and Community Relations also engages external partners in sharing Georgia Tech’s story.

Members of the Capitol Jackets group, made up of alumni across the state and partners on campus, receive a biweekly newsletter with updates and calls to action. Those interested in the group can visit www.gov.gatech.edu/gla.

For more information, contact Sheheane at sheheane@gatech.edu.

http://www.library.gatech.edu/scifi

www.gov.gatech.edu

www.w whistle.gatech.edu

THE WHISTLE • January 9, 2012 • PAGE 4

In Memoriam: Myrna Roberts, GTRI

**In Memoriam: Myrna Roberts, GTRI**: Myrna Steel Roberts, 34, an Electronic Systems Laboratory research associate at the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI), died on Dec. 18.

Roberts began working at GTRI in 2009. Services were held at Alpharetta First United Methodist Church last month. In lieu of flowers, the family has suggested that donations may be sent to the Sikh Cell Foundation.

**SCI-FI, continued from page 1**

about and navigate the collection. An optimized search box on the homepage allows readers to search only material available in the collection, including DVDs and archives.

Currently, the collection includes more than 10,000 science fiction and fantasy novels printed between 1930 and 1990, more than 1,000 science fiction periodical issues, and more than 150 science fiction films and television series.

Former Georgia Tech Literature Professor Irving “Bud” Foote laid the groundwork for the collection by donating his personal book and magazine collection to archives. Since then, the collection has grown through other donations and library purchases. For more information on the Georgia Tech Science Fiction Collection, contact Sper at 894-9421.

**www.library.gatech.edu/scifi**