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LuAnne F. and Tim E. Waller
MATH 1970
Sandy Springs, Georgia

- At Georgia Tech, Tim Waller was a member of the International Student Organization Committee, Tau Beta Pi, and Phi Eta Sigma. He currently serves on the College of Sciences Advisory Board and Class of 1970 40th Reunion Committee and is a member of Friends of Mathematics.

- Inducted into the U.S. Army after graduation, Tim was assigned to the Defense Communications Agency supporting military software systems. Afterwards, Tim joined AT&T Long Lines in software development, and subsequently spent 25 years in commercial software product development and management for companies supporting the healthcare industry. Although retired, he continues to provide consulting services to healthcare-related companies.

- Tim married LuAnne Figoni, from Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1982. LuAnne, also a math major, was employed in software development until 1993 when she decided to pursue her lifelong passion for gardening. Upon completing her studies in horticulture, she started her own landscape design business, which she runs from their home in Sandy Springs.

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42 Broken
Ross Mason was a competitive athlete and a world-traveling adventurer, until a freak cycling accident put him in a wheelchair. Today, he is competing to make Georgia the center of a revolution in regenerative medicine.

48 101 Books
Paul Verhaeghen, on the cover, and Billiee Pendleton-Parker, above, were among the alumni, faculty, staff and students recommending books all Institute grads should read before they lay dying. Photos by Kelvin Kuo.

62 151 NASA Jackets
Manned flights to Mars are on the horizon. Georgia Tech co-op students and alumni, including 151 highlighted inside this issue, are helping make space missions possible through roles on the ground and in orbit.
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2011 Travel Preview
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What Alumni Bring to the Table

As we wind down another fiscal year, I want to say thanks to all of you for your terrific support of Georgia Tech. This institution started out 125 years ago because of the great foresight of leaders like Nathaniel Harris, Henry W. Grady and Isaac Hopkins. What Georgia Tech has become would astonish even these most thoughtful and remarkable people.

Henry Grady, at the Georgia Tech opening ceremony, said as he pointed at the Tech Tower and its sister, the shop building, “There is a light that will cast its beams over all the South. So lighted can we move into the industrial future.” He knew that Georgia Tech would indeed move the South into the future, but he could never have foreseen what Georgia Tech would become. As Tech educates the leaders of this technologically ubiquitous world, that light shines globally today.

It doesn’t happen without you. Tech is successful in so many ways because we have alumni who care about the history and care about the future. Joe Evans, the chair of the Alumni Association for the 2010 fiscal year, is fond of saying, “While I didn’t attend a top 10 public university, I graduated from one.” And that’s a point well made. Tech’s progress in the past 30 years is astonishing. When you build a strong foundation, you can do amazing things.

Alumni can bring a lot to the table for a university. Advocacy is certainly one. Your advocacy of Georgia Tech has opened thousands of opportunities for the Institute in commerce, research, military and other fields. Alumni citizens help our government leaders understand the importance and the value of higher education. The challenges of declining state financial support make advocacy a particularly important initiative for us today.

Governance is another way that alumni help shape the institution through its various organizations and advisory boards. Certainly the Institute is governed by the Board of Regents, but alumni can help Tech “do the right things” under that aegis.

Recruiting the best and brightest students is an enormous help to Tech. Applications to Georgia Tech have gone up 37 percent in the past two years. That speaks to a lot of things—not the least of which are your efforts to tell the story to potential students.

Student mentoring is a rising tide, and we will call on you to help broaden our students’ educational experiences more and more in the future. Imagine “if I only knew then what I know now!”

Alumni also help Tech by hiring other alumni or making connections for other alumni job seekers. The Georgia Tech alumni network works because of you and your passion to help our fellow alumni.

Finally, and you knew this was coming, your generous donations help make Georgia Tech a stellar institution. The generosity of Tech’s alumni is legendary among public institutions. Our aim is to make it legendary among all global universities. Thank you for caring about Georgia Tech.

Have a great summer!

Joseph P. Irwin, President of the Georgia Tech Alumni Association
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*From Georgia Tech Global Learning Center (GLC) meeting evaluation, an online survey sent to planners of meetings held at the GLC.
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Letters

Friendships Built at Burge

I really enjoyed your article about the Burge Apartments. It brought back a lot of memories, especially about professor J.H. Henika.

I entered Georgia Tech after World War II in the industrial option of mechanical engineering and had Uncle Heinie’s wood shop just before he retired. His mind was still razor sharp, but his voice had become a little weak. He installed a PA system in his lecture class in the ME building. That was before the days of lavalier mics, but he rigged up a microphone around his neck.

One nice spring day with the sun shining through the windows to our backs, a student named Eckel sitting right next to me fell asleep. Uncle Heinie blew into his mic. It was like a shot that woke him up. Uncle Heinie said, “Sit up and lie to me, young man. I don’t care if you are listening or not, but you make me think you are. Lie to me!”

That taught me a good lesson. From then on I “lied” to all my teachers, and, of course, I ended up paying attention. I am sure that lesson helped me graduate in September 1948.

I stayed and worked on the campus and would go to Uncle Heinie’s apartment in Burge to visit him once in a while. I would find him with several Bibles open. He told me, “When I was teaching, wood work was my vocation and studying the Bible was my avocation. Now I have switched, and the Bible is my vocation and woodworking my avocation.” That was another good lesson that has had a great influence on my life.

Another memory of Burge involved a Chinese student that my wife, Iris, and I met through the Atlanta Ministry with International Students. Jianghong Liang, MS Poly 04, MBA 06, later brought his wife, Ying Liu, PhD Biol 10, over, and they moved into apartment 45 in Burge.

They invited Iris and me for dinner in their very small place and had a makeshift dining table set for us. Liang asked what we would like to drink, and we told him “just water.” He went into the kitchen and came back with the statement, “I’m sorry but we have no water.” They didn’t know then that you could drink Atlanta water right out of the tap. That experience helped cement our lasting friendship.

Liang and Ying later had his father, with whom they had left their young son, put him on an airplane in Shanghai. Liang met him in San Francisco. Yifan had flown all the way by himself. He is 10 years old today and quite an accomplished piano player, having started studying music at the First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta, where they are now members. We are still enjoying a friendship that got started in Burge.

Robert E. Eskew, IE 48, MS IE 55
Austell, Ga.

Apartment 57

The article Burge Apartments Tenants’ Tales was especially entertaining for an old alumnus. In early January 1946, after serving in the Normandy, northern France, Bulge, Rhineland and central Europe campaigns, I went to Atlanta to follow up on a 1943 letter I sent Tech asking to be considered for enrollment.

While on campus, I decided to sign up for married student housing. I was not a student, nor was I married. This was a reaction to my service training to sign up for anything that sounded good.

I entered the freshman class in September 1946. I had gotten married on Sunday in Brunswick, Ga., found my wife a job on Monday and entered Tech on Tuesday. Time was of the essence in those days since we were starting so late.

It was fortunate that we found a bedroom out beyond Fort Mac in the home of a friendly old maid and her 88-year-old father. We shared the bath and had a shelf in the refrigerator. I had 7 o’clock classes six days a week, and I had to catch the 5:30 a.m. trackless trolley from East Point to get to school on time.

In early October 1947, we were the second couple to move into Burge, apartment 57. It was so good to fall out at 7:50 to make an 8 a.m. class. Burge was wonderful — so nice, clean and new. It was a castle. We had our own bath, our own kitchen and equipment and, above all, our privacy.

I had not heard that Burge had been scuttled, and, now that I look back, that was 63 years ago. We stayed there until I got my master’s degree in IE.

Charlie Fiveash, IE 49, MS IE 50
Aiken, S.C.
**Gissendaner? Grynkewich?**

I just read in the *Alumni Magazine* (May/June 2010) about the passing of Jack Gissendaner. I wonder if I might share a remembrance from which his survivors may get a chuckle.

Jack and I were both CerE 65 and of course had many classes together. His name always preceded mine on the alphabetical rolls, and I can still see many a professor looking up over his glasses and around at the class with that “you gotta be kidding me” stare when he got to our names. We, and those who knew us, began to look for it, particularly at the start of each quarter.

Well, finally graduation day came, and of course Jack sat to my left as we waited for our names to be called so we could walk across the stage. It became apparent that the dean given the chore of reading the names had partaken of a nip or 12 and was not the most coherent even with the easy names.

Sure enough, he got to us and got part way through Gissendaner, then thoroughly slaughtered Grynkewich. This was the subject of quite a bit of humor after the ceremonies, and I’m smiling now as I write this some 45 years later.

Nicholas E. Grynkewich Jr.
CerE 65, MS CerE 72
St. Simons Island, Ga.

---

**English Profs Had My Name**

The Bikini Girl Cover Was Mine letter in the May/June *Alumni Magazine* brought back memories. I drew cartoons for the *Technique* (pro bono) for a few years when I should have been studying. I have attached one of my many favorites. The “I’d cut English with you, Wadsworth, but I need the sleep” cartoon was tacked on every English professor’s door the next day — with my name on it.

I included some of the cartoons in my book, *I Have Slipped the Surly Bonds of Earth and Danced the Skies*, a collection of personal aviation and architectural anecdotes.

Jim Warner, Arch 50
Atlanta

---

**Statute of Limitations?**

I remember Bob Lee, Arch 54, as a tall, handsome, gifted artist/architectural student. I feel badly Georgia Tech did not pay Bob for his bikini girl *Yellow Jacket* cover — and others — as he certainly deserved to have been paid.

When asked to do a *Yellow Jacket* cover, I do remember asking for $30 a cover, not $35, and was paid $30 each for a number of covers. If Bob had not asked for any compensation or had asked for the $35, rather than $30, I can understand how he may not have been paid. But Georgia Tech is a very fair-minded school, and I am sure would pay Bob $30 — plus interest — per *Yellow Jacket* cover he delivered.

Tilmone Chamlee, Arch 57
Milledgeville, Ga.

---

**Give Money to Magazine**

I’m still a little skeptical of Tilmone Chamlee’s recollection that he received $30 for each of his *Yellow Jacket* covers. That would have been a whole lot of money in 1954, and as the art editor, you’d think I would have known!

In any event, if there is any money due me for my *Yellow Jacket* covers as Tilmone claims, I would like to contribute it to my favorite alumni magazine for putting two of us more senior alumni back in touch after all these years.

Bob Lee, Arch 54
Pound, N.Y.
Best Issue Ever

I wanted to take a moment to say how much I enjoyed this last GEORGIA TECH ALUMNI MAGAZINE. I particularly enjoyed the article about Burdell and the campus cats—and I’m not even a cat person. I also liked the piece on the Burge Apartments.

I know there’s a place for articles about research and technological innovations. But it’s refreshing to see some more human interest and historical articles about our campus. It was the best issue I’ve ever read.

Ed Bailey
Media quality control supervisor
Georgia Tech Distance Learning

Interesting and Insightful

Thank you for the insightful and interesting article about the feral cats on campus. This is a great way to stay in touch with what is going on these days at Tech.

Gus Harrington, ME 79
Newburyport, Mass.

Refreshing Reminder

Leslie Overman’s feature, Burdell Needs a Home, in the May/June 2010 ALUMNI MAGAZINE is to be commended as a refreshing reminder that the Georgia Tech community leads not only in technological advances but also acts as a role model at the local community level. Her story painted a moving history of the care and rescue of these unfortunate cats. I am proud to be a Tech alumna when I read of initiatives such as these.

The campus cats program has made a real difference in the treatment of feral and abandoned felines on the Tech campus. Not only has the overall number of cats on campus declined through the spay/neuter policy and adoption of kittens, the remaining feral cats are now healthy. These cats also repay Georgia Tech through the elimination of many rodents throughout the campus without the need of poisons and protecting valuable landscaping, thus aiding in recent efforts to create a sustainable, green campus.

I’m so glad there are dedicated volunteers who help them.

During the existence of the campus cats program, support and donations have come from all levels of the Georgia Tech community, including the highest levels of the administration. Unfortunately, Georgia Tech has not formally adopted this program as a sanctioned organization, in spite of the fact that it is recognized as a prototype for other campuses and urban areas throughout the Southeast. I hope that Ms. Overman’s article will change that.

Please continue the great work at the ALUMNI MAGAZINE in bringing stories like this to light.

Marilyn Jones Smith
AE 82, MS AE 85, PhD AE 94
Aerospace engineering associate professor
Georgia Tech

Thank you for including the campus cats article in the GEORGIA TECH ALUMNI MAGAZINE. It really helped me and other folks understand the campus feral cat situation. I’m so glad there are dedicated volunteers who help them.

Lianne Griffin, IM 80
Atlanta

Record-setting Mac’s Beer

A co-worker in Boston whose son attends Tech sent me a bit of trivia from Facebook. Mac’s Beer and Wine on Peachtree Place claims to have hired more Georgia Tech students than any corporation in America.

I wonder who holds the record today for hiring more Tech graduates than anyone else. I’m sure in the ’50s it had to be Georgia Power, possibly followed by Coca-Cola or Lockheed, but it might make a nice question for an end-of-magazine quiz.

By the way, the word quiz still makes me tremble. I was a straight-A shiny apple from a good high school, and taking tests was never a problem for me, even standardized tests like the ACT and the SAT. But when my shiny apple was dumped into Tech’s barrel of even shinier apples, I learned to fear the word quiz. A quiz usually had four questions, so one could receive an F, an F, a D or an A.

Dave Robinson, Phys 73
Smyrna, Ga.

Meeting Boyhood Heroes

The night before flying to Jackson Hole, Wyo., I skimmed the May/June GEORGIA TECH ALUMNI MAGAZINE, which contained photos of several naval aviators. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Herbert Hasell was pictured with two astronauts, Capt. Gene Cernan and Capt. Jim Lovell. Capt. Alan Poindexter, who commanded the April space shuttle mission and was pictured with his crew, was a Navy ROTC midshipman when I was the Navy ROTC junior class instructor between 1985 and 1987.

The photo of Capt. Cernan was an invaluable recognition aid. The next morning, when my wife Suzanne and I were on the new AeroTrain at Dulles Airport, we found ourselves next to two of my boyhood heroes, Capt. Cernan, the last man on the moon, and naval aviator Neil Armstrong, the first man on the moon. [They] were headed home after testifying before Congress against the Obama administration’s decision to cancel the return to the moon program. I congratulated both on their testimony.

I am a nuclear engineer currently analyzing foreign nuclear weapons programs for the Department of Defense. Suzanne and I are moving from Burke, Va., to a 59-acre ranch in Gordonsville, Va. I am a retired Navy lieutenant commander and former nuclear submarine officer.

Robert Roesler, APhys 80, MS NE 87
Burke, Va.
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Rites of Spring

Photographer Kelvin Kuo, a newly minted Tech graduate, chronicled the flood of annual springtime campus and Alumni Association activities in May, including the President’s Dinner, which saluted Leadership Circle giving to the 63rd Roll Call at the Georgia Aquarium; the Ramblin’ On party for graduating students; and commencement, which Kuo captured from the time he and his classmates lined up in alphabetical order until they celebrated the balloon drop.
Get Involved with Alumni Affinity Groups!

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Visit [http://gtalumni.org/pages/affinitygroups](http://gtalumni.org/pages/affinitygroups) for more information.
Local Georgia Tech Club Members Recognized

Awards were presented this spring to single out outstanding contributions of Georgia Tech Club members in Atlanta, Birmingham, Ala., and Tampa, Fla.

“The local achievement awards are modeled after Leadership Georgia Tech awards, given each year by the Alumni Association to outstanding alumni in the geographical clubs,” said Jane Stoner, senior manager of Alumni Clubs.

Stoner said geographical clubs are being encouraged to recognize alumni within their ranks who have made significant contributions to their local Georgia Tech community, to their professions and to the business world.

The Atlanta Intown Georgia Tech Club honored two of its members at its third annual Night at the Symphony, a cocktail party and outing to the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra’s performance of Verdi’s Requiem.

Jimmy Mitchell, CE 05, an estimator with Skanska USA, was named the club’s outstanding alumnus. Mitchell organized the club’s first corn hole tournament, staged before a home football game last fall as a scholarship fundraiser. The Atlanta Intown Club has since partnered with the Young Alumni Council to expand the tournament into an annual scholarship fundraiser.

The club honored Iana Tassada, CE 05, as its outstanding young alumna. A project manager with RJ Griffin, Tassada led the club’s 2009-10 scholarship program.

“Iana provided a smooth experience for the students and the scholarship committee members and also provided excellent collaboration with the Alumni Association,” said club president Suzanne Fowler, Mgt 03.

Ted Brasfield, CE 66, is the Birmingham Georgia Tech Club’s 2010 Outstanding Alumnus of the Year.

Club secretary for the last three years, he is the owner of Brasfield Sales Inc.

“Georgia Tech helped me gain a solid educational basis while training me to engage with and solve problems of a technical nature,” Brasfield said. “It also provided a basis for lifelong friendships with local alumni. I feel that giving back to Georgia Tech, both in service and financially, is very important.”

Ashley Harrison, BC 07, is the Birmingham club’s Outstanding Young Alumna of the Year. She has been involved with the club since graduation and her subsequent move to Birmingham.

Harrison, a consultant for KLMK Group LLC, has served as the club’s young alumni chair and vice president. She is the president-elect for 2010-11.

The Suncoast/Tampa Georgia Tech Club presented five awards at its spring dinner.

Fred Carlson, CE 01, MBA 04, received the Young Alumnus of the Year Award for 2010 for his efforts in developing the club’s Facebook page, expanding young alumni participation and coordinating the first Coaches Caravan webcast. Carlson will serve as the 2010-11 vice president.

Norma Wright, IM 79, was named Alumna of the Year for her five years of service and dedication as the club’s scholarship chair and student recruitment officer. She continues to serve on the club advisory committee.

Fred Carlson, left to right, Ashley Miller, Todd Pitts and Chip Hayward are Suncoast/Tampa Georgia Tech Club leaders. The Birmingham Club saluted, below left, Ashley Harrison and Ted Brasfield, while the Atlanta Intown Georgia Tech Club recognized, below right, Iana Tassada and Jimmy Mitchell.

Todd Pitts, EE 98, was presented the club’s President Award for his five years of service and dedication in revamping and maintaining the organization’s Web site. He also has served as the Suncoast/Tampa club’s secretary.

Chip Hayward, Arch 79, M Arch 81, received a certificate of merit for his fundraising efforts for the scholarship fund and his service as club president over the past two years. He will serve as the golf tournament chair and a member of the advisory committee. Ashley Miller, EE 83, will serve as the Suncoast/Tampa club’s president.

Find a club at gtalumni.org/clubs.
Jackets Required: Gatherings of Tech Grads and Friends

1. Jacksonville

2. Alumni House

3. Tampa

4. Dalton

5. San Juan

6. Huntsville

7. Turner Field
1. The Jacksonville Georgia Tech Club gathered accepted students from that region of Florida for a reception.  
2. Gene McCord, IM 68, and John Staton, IM 60, saluted veterans and active military personnel during the Military Affinity Group’s Armed Forces Appreciation Day.  
3. The Suncoast/Tampa Georgia Tech Club hosted the first webcast of a Coaches Caravan stop.  
4. The Dalton/Northwest Georgia Club presented scholarships to Parker Plunkett, Cassie Fields and Kathryn Green.  
5. Hector Llenza, BS 53, Arch 54, participated in the Puerto Rico Georgia Tech Club’s scholarship golf tournament.  
6. The North Alabama/Huntsville Georgia Tech Club presented scholarships to incoming freshmen Taylor Riggs and Olivia King. (Find a local Georgia Tech Club at gtalumni.org/clubs.)  
7. The Spring Classic baseball matchup between Georgia Tech and the University of Georgia brought Ken, IE 56, and Melinda Waid to Turner Field in Atlanta.  
8. Bob, IE 64, MS IM 70, and Pat Branford caught up on Tech news in Rouen during an Alumni Travel tour, Paris to Normandy. (Sign up for a trip at gtalumni.org/pages/travel.)  
9. Sherman Glass Jr., ChE 71, MS ChE 72, president of ExxonMobil Refining & Supply, was in the House to present a Roll Call matching gift check from the company in the amount of $324,668.25.  
10. Gary Jones, IM 71, retired managing director of Credit Suisse First Boston and now a professor of the practice at Tech, invited Wal-Mart CEO Mike Duke, IM 71, to speak to his class in the College of Management during the spring semester.  
11. Huixi Zhao, MS ECE 10, and Gary May, EE 85, chair of the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, chatted in Shanghai, where the Alumni Association hosted a reception for President G. P. “Bud” and Val Peterson.
When the Tabernacle in downtown Atlanta opened its doors in May for an event headlined by David Byrne, the music venue’s merchandise stand was stocked not with Talking Heads T-shirts and albums but with signed copies of Byrne’s book Bicycle Diaries, a collection of observations and thoughts from his travels through cities of the world astride a folding bicycle.

In the opening chapter of the 2009 book, Byrne talks about the problem he found cycling across America. “Most U.S. cities are not very bike-friendly,” he wrote. “They’re not very pedestrian-friendly either. They’re car-friendly — or at least they try very hard to be. In most of these cities one could say that the machines have won. Lives, city planning, budgets and time are all focused around the automobile. It’s long-term unsustainable and short-term lousy living. How did it get this way?”

The bicycle has been Byrne’s primary mode of transportation since the ’80s. And, if the half-empty parking lot of the Tabernacle that May night was any indication, it also is the go-to form of transportation for many of the architects, city planners and engineers who packed the concert hall to watch the musician present a slide show of photographs from his travels. Byrne’s presentation was part of the opening-night lineup of the 18th annual Congress for New Urbanism.

This year’s congress, with the theme “RX for Healthy Places,” was organized with assistance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and brought more than 1,400 people to the Atlanta Hilton May 19-22 to discuss how to make urban and suburban communities healthier. Session topics included how-tos on building safer streets; creating mixed-use developments; planning for successful transit-oriented development; and replacing freeways with boulevards.

Several Georgia Tech professors spoke at the congress, including CNU 18 chair Ellen Dunham-Jones, a professor in the College of Architecture.

Dunham-Jones said that the Congress for New Urbanism has become a highly effective interdisciplinary think tank, with members advancing urban design solutions that address concerns about livability, affordability and mobility, as well as environmental and public health issues. She said it started by a growing number of people asking, “Why don’t we build real towns that are as healthy, attractive and convenient as we used to? Why have our zoning codes and financial regulations only allowed us to build disconnected subdivisions and malls that reinforce auto dependency?

“Many of our regulations are based on 1920s ideas about the health benefits of separating housing from factories and pedestrians from cars,” Dunham-Jones said. “However, these good intentions have led us to a norm today where we drive twice as much per capita as we did just 20 years ago. Eighty-five percent of kids no longer walk to school, and obesity rates have doubled over the same time period. Instead of the healthy lifestyle that is typically associated with suburbia’s green lawns, public health researchers are finding correlations between sedentary lifestyles and sprawl.

“In addition, all of that driving degrades air and water quality. In combination with the higher amounts of energy required per person in detached, low-rise buildings, suburban dwellers end up having carbon footprints that are on average three times that of those living a more urban lifestyle."

She said that “CNU isn’t trying to force everyone to give up their suburban homes, but it is trying to at least make it legal for developers to build walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods to meet the growing demand.”

Dunham-Jones said one of the highlights of the congress for her was an announcement from Shaun Donovan, secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, that HUD would be using the location efficiency and LEED-ND [neighborhood development] criteria jointly devel-
Architecture professor Ellen Dunham-Jones says the new urbanism movement attracts people who believe “sprawl is eating up all the countryside.”

Throughout the congress, new urbanists brought up the idea of bringing back neighborhoods and the “main street” by creating sustainable communities that have a variety of housing, business and retail. They push for city plans that accommodate automobiles but are located near transit and are pedestrian- and bike-friendly, with connected street grids that include bike lanes and sidewalks lined with shops and cafes.

“We call these complete streets. They’re not just for cars, they’re also for bikes and for people. Tech Square is a good example,” Dunham-Jones said.

For the past few years, Dunham-Jones has been researching successful new urbanist redevelopments of underperforming suburban properties. “The recession has made it even more glaring to us that many suburban properties are not aging well and will not hold value,” she said.

In 2009, Dunham-Jones and June Williamson published *Retrofitting Suburbia*, a collection of case studies of dead shopping malls, business parks, commercial strips and other developments that have been rehomed, “regreened” or redeveloped into more sustainable places. Within months of the book’s publication, it was referenced in a *Time* magazine article titled “10 Ideas Changing the World Right Now.” Recycling the suburbs came in at No. 2.

Dunham-Jones said there is already a demand for a more urban way of life in the suburbs. Suburbs no longer are as family-focused as they used to be. Already two-thirds of suburban households do not have children in them, she said, and most new household growth will be in empty nesters and young professionals, both of whom crave a more urban lifestyle. So she suggests taking a bit of the city to the suburbs.

“Dead malls are perfect sites for giving the suburbs a downtown that they never had before, providing an opportunity for those folks who live in the suburbs who want to live a more urban lifestyle that choice,” she said.

In a PowerPoint presentation before a crowded room of congress participants, Dunham-Jones showed photographs and blueprints of successful suburban retrofits across the country: a St. Louis mall converted to an arts complex; a Texas grocery store turned into a library; and a former Kmart that now houses the SPAM Museum. One dead mall redevelopment in Lakewood, Colo., has been so successful that eight out of 13 regional malls in the Denver area have been retrofitted or announced plans for retrofitting, she said.

And if there’s not enough traffic to warrant a new suburban development, sometimes “regreening a space makes more sense,” she said, pulling up slides of a Cleveland mall that is using its atrium as a greenhouse and a Columbus, Ohio, mall that was demolished to make way for a park.

“It’s always sad to see a business die, but every time I see another dead strip mall, I think, ‘Great! Another opportunity to now regreen it or redevelop it in a much more sustainable way.’”
School of Psychology
Hits Half-century Mark

By Kimberly Link-Wills

In a video commemorating the School of Psychology’s 50th anniversary, former chair Anderson Smith cracked that the program had been treated with “benign respect” for half a century.

Associate professor Jim Roberts was charged with chairing the anniversary committee. He said it was no easy task to gather information on the school, which has been housed in about half a dozen buildings, from what was called the Little House to the Coon Building, its home since 2004.

“It’s amazing because, after 50 years, you still have people out there saying, ‘I didn’t know Tech had a psychology school,’” Roberts said.

Earlier this year, students, alumni, current and former faculty and administrators were brought together for tours, lab demonstrations and a “fireside chat” that featured a glowing fireplace projected onto a wall in the Coon building. About 150 of them attended a celebratory dinner the following night.

From 10 undergraduate students and four faculty, the School of Psychology has grown to 23 faculty, 130 undergraduates and 80 graduate students. The first psychology students were undergraduates recruited in 1959, with the first degrees awarded in 1961.

“Psychology classes first were conducted in what was called the Little House.”

Jack Marr, Psy 61, an emeritus professor, was one of those 10 recruited students.

“You couldn’t transfer willy-nilly. They chose you. They vetted you, in a sense. There were tests, extensive interviews. They ended up with 10 guys,” Marr told the Living History program.

“The courses were like graduate courses. It was fascinating for various reasons,” Marr said. “The curriculum was utterly unique. There was no curriculum like it anywhere. Of course, you had to take physics and chemistry and … math and so on, but then you had to take a year of biology, including comparative anatomy. Even the guy who taught it hadn’t taught it in God knows how long. … The idea was to graduate employable people.

“Most of us did go to graduate school or medical school,” said Marr, who earned master’s and doctoral degrees at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill before returning to Tech to teach.

Marr also conducted research in behavioral pharmacology, “really neat stuff,” in his lab, housed in the basement of the D.M. Smith Building, where he toiled happily until the 1980s.

“The building was deteriorating, particularly the basement,” Marr said. “They tried to put me in a space down by the reactor that was just unusable, then after that in Skiles.”

Another trying period came when Pat Crecine assumed Tech’s presidency and tried to group the School of Psychology with liberal arts. Marr and his colleagues rallied and won the school’s place within the College of Sciences.

“If we had not, it would have been disastrous,” said Marr, who asserted that the adoption of the semester system was the worst thing to happen during his tenure. “I fought, I fought, I fought. Many people did.”

Marr also said it was “crazy” that women had had to petition to be awarded degrees at Tech and remembered that female students’ early days were a more turbulent time than the era of racial integration.

One of those early women was Margaret
Stephens Martin, the first female student awarded bachelor’s and master’s degrees in psychology at Georgia Tech, in 1967 and 1969.

Her father, the late Perry Stephens, Cls 31, paid attention when the Board of Regents allowed women to enroll at Tech in 1952. “We knew it was possible to do it. I think he was reading Tech Topics or something,” Martin told Living History.

Martin enrolled in Tech in 1959. Her father convinced her to study architecture. She was one of 10 women in a freshman class of 2,000. “I found out that everyone wasn’t ecstatically happy to have me there, both professors and students,” she said. “We tried to have a positive attitude.”

She and a friend put their positive attitudes to work as Tech’s first two full-time female cheerleaders. (Anne Brown was the first, but reportedly did not cheer for an entire season.)

Still, it was difficult to keep up her school spirit in the School of Architecture, where some of the faculty were “very hostile” toward the female students, Martin said. “This is not where my talents were … but for girls who really wanted to be there, it was sad.”

Martin dropped out, married and followed her husband to California. Three years later they returned to Atlanta. “I wanted that degree bad enough to come back,” said Martin, who received help in petitioning to become a psychology major from school chair Edward Loveland. “I just had to be in class and get A’s.”

Marr encouraged her to get her doctorate at Emory. “It was a piece of cake after Georgia Tech,” said Martin, who went on to a long college teaching career in South Carolina.

In his research for the anniversary celebration, committee chair Roberts learned that the School of Psychology has made its mark. “Our legacy programs, if you will, have been in engineering psychology and industrial organization psychology,” Roberts said. “In the ’80s, there was an expanded focus on aging. We have a cognitive aging area, and we are leaders in that field.

“More recently, the school has made strides in cognitive neuroscience, specifically neuro-imaging. We have a new fMRI facility, the Center for Advanced Brain Imaging, on Marietta Street,” he said. “It’s already attracted several forms of grant support from federal agencies.”

Roberts came to Tech in 2005 to work in a new area of focus, quantitative psychology. “I study how to model preferences and choice in the context of attitude measurement,” he said.

He also is busy compiling all of the photos, interviews and documents he’s found pertaining to the School of Psychology’s history. By its centennial, perhaps everyone will know of the school’s contributions.
Stephen Fleming took the stage in front of a massive number 30 made of balloons and reflected on the origin of the Advanced Technology Development Center three decades ago.

“I look around the room, and some of you weren’t even born in 1980,” said Fleming, Phys 83, who was a sophomore at the time. “Pac-Man was released and started to take quarters out of our pockets. The best Star Wars was released.”

Since then, the center, which incubates businesses, has had 120 graduating businesses that have created more than 4,000 jobs in Georgia. It has generated an estimated $13 billion in revenues and more than $100 million in profits. Fleming, ATDC director and vice provost of Tech’s Enterprise Innovation Institute, thanked the state, ATDC employees and volunteers for their support over the years.

ATDC has received several awards and recognitions over the years, the latest being from Forbes magazine, which named it among “10 technology incubators that are changing the world.”

“We must be doing something right,” Fleming said.

Graduates include Suniva, one of the top makers of solar panels, and members include SimCraft, a racing simulator that was featured in Iron Man 2.

Georgia Tech President G. P. “Bud” Peterson introduced the 30th anniversary celebration, which also featured a showcase of 44 current ATDC members and the graduation of four companies.

Peterson explained how Tech’s heritage led to the creation of ATDC.

“The seed that sprouted to form this organization was planted by a group of Georgia Tech alums who were concerned about providing job opportunities for the graduates of Georgia Tech,” Peterson said. “This group, which was called the Committee of Twenty, proposed the creation of an incubator to help support the growth and development of new technology companies.”

“At the time, the late 1970s, this was really a revolutionary idea — that you would have an incubator that would support new companies and the development, growth and success of those new companies.”

ATDC offered cheap office space, technical resources and networking connections on the Tech campus to fledgling companies and entrepreneurs. It was kick-started with $185,000 allotted by the General Assembly and then-Gov. George Busbee.

The center has grown to have three offices around the state. The latest, announced at the celebration, is a partnership with the University of Georgia’s Gwinnett County location.

Fleming said ATDC now is focusing on the future, which includes further expansion. Physically, he said the center will expand its focus beyond metro Atlanta.

And ATDC will bring in more nascent companies. After recently doubling its staff and services, it has grown to 321 members. The entrepreneurs include those just starting up and those needing funding to launch.

The latest incubator graduates — Commerce V3, Endgame Systems, Izenda Reports and Purewire — were honored at the ceremony.

Paul Judge, MS CS 01, PhD CS 02, the founder of Purewire, spoke about what it takes, even with ATDC’s assistance, to launch a business.

“Most importantly, just don’t sleep,” Judge said.

— Van Jensen
Economic Chief Signs On

Georgia Department of Economic Development commissioner Ken Stewart becomes Tech’s senior adviser for industry strategy in July.

“Ken brings an outstanding record of experience in new business development and the expansion of existing ones,” President G. P. “Bud” Peterson said. “His insight and experience will be vital as Georgia Tech pursues the vision of becoming an even more dynamic economic driver for Georgia, our nation and the world.”

During Stewart’s time at the Department of Economic Development, the agency assisted companies that created almost 62,000 jobs and $11.4 billion in investment.

“Georgia Tech is known worldwide by companies as a go-to place for leading-edge research and technical expertise. Tech is truly an ace in our state’s economic development deck,” Stewart said, “and it’s an honor to have the opportunity to help merge current and future company needs with the vast capabilities of Georgia Tech.”

Gov. Sonny Perdue announced other moves in state government in June. Jim Lientz, IM 65, the state’s chief operating officer since 2000, is returning to the private sector. He is being replaced by Trey Childress, IntA 00, IsyE 00, MS PubPol 02.

Capital Projects Funded

The state of Georgia’s $17.9 billion budget approved for the 2011 fiscal year includes allocations recommended for Tech’s capital projects and the University System of Georgia’s strategic funding priorities.

The budget provides $7.3 million in bond funding for both of Georgia Tech’s requested capital projects. The majority of that funding, $7 million, will go toward completing and equipping the Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons. The remaining funding, $300,000, will go toward the design and planning of the eco-commons water relocation project.

Also approved were $113 million for enrollment growth and $60 million for major repairs and rehabilitation to be divided among University System institutions.

Showing Great Promise

For a time, Duane Carver, his mother and his sister lived in a car. Now Carver is a Georgia Tech graduate. He was able to enroll at the Institute in 2007 in the inaugural class of Georgia Tech Promise scholars. The Tech Promise offers a debt-free education to students with annual family incomes of $30,000 or less. Carver graduated in May, after only three years at Tech. He has landed a job with Fidelity Bank in North Carolina and plans to go to law school and become a technology patent attorney. Carver was congratulated on his success by Robert Hall, above left, IM 64, and Joe Evans, IM 71, at the Alumni Association’s board of trustees meeting in May.

Strategic Plan Readied

The Institute’s 25-year strategic plan is being fine-tuned this summer in anticipation of a September unveiling.

The plan, with five overarching goals, is designed to take Tech from its 125th anniversary this fall to its 150th in 2035. The Tech community was invited to provide input on a draft of the plan this spring.

“We have worked very hard to ensure that the process was both comprehensive and inclusive so that together we could create a plan and shared vision of what Georgia Tech might look like in the future,” said President G. P. “Bud” Peterson.

In a letter introducing the plan, available at gatech.edu, Peterson wrote, “Great universities shape the world rather than being shaped by it. We do this by critically examining how we prepare our students for an unknown future, by carefully selecting the research problems we pursue and through the way we view the many challenges before us. In so doing, truly great institutions like Georgia Tech define and direct the way our world changes rather than just waiting for it to happen.”

Peterson said Tech’s role is to solve problems and “shape our world. To accomplish this, we must not only design the methods and approaches people will use to solve problems but renew the ways in which we interact with and educate our students.”

Languages Degree Offered

The School of Modern Languages will begin offering a bachelor’s degree in applied languages and intercultural studies in the fall semester. The Board of Regents approved the degree program this spring.

“As bilateral and multilateral relations...
Inhibiting Blood Clots

Fibrin is an essential part of the human body that creates a fibrous network to clot blood at the site of an injury. But when it forms clots incorrectly, fibrin can cause heart attacks, strokes and tissue damage.

A new study from Thomas Barker, an assistant professor in the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering at Georgia Tech and Emory University, explores methods to prevent fibrin from causing damage.

The method would employ synthetic fibrin to prevent clots from growing out of control. The synthetic fibrin could become key in developing new anticoagulants, Barker said.

“An additional goal for this technology is to develop a viable delivery strategy for synthetically engineered fibrin glue so that we can guide and control the body’s response to an injury,” Barker said.

Food Chain Center Opens

Long neglected as a significant area of supply chain analysis and exploration, the efficient transport of agricultural and food products now is receiving a high-profile platform for research and development at the Institute.

The Georgia Tech Integrated Food Chain Center launched in May as an international research hub focused on designing, analyzing and improving the food chain for cold and perishable products. The center was established by Georgia Tech’s Supply Chain & Logistics Institute and the Memphis, Tenn.-based Sterling Solutions LLC.

The goal is to assure that growers, processors, retailers and logistics providers can deliver quality perishables with greater efficiency. Consumer interest in food safety and practices has never been stronger. Retailers and wholesalers desire the same assurances, along with consistent product safety and quality management systems that maximize sales while minimizing waste. The center will focus on product tracing, product monitoring and analytics.

“There’s not much visibility back up the food chain, even in the best of circumstances,” said John Bartholdi, the center’s director of research. “What we are really focusing on is knowing the history of food and when we receive it. If we can have much better estimations of shelf life, we can move the product more efficiently through the supply chain here.”

Cathepsin K Detected

The enzyme cathepsin K has been connected to osteoporosis, arthritis, atherosclerosis and cancer metastasis, but it has eluded detection in laboratory experiments. Until now.

A team led by Manu Platt, an assistant professor in the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering at Georgia Tech and Emory, developed an assay that reliably detects and quantifies cathepsin K using a technique called gelatin zymography.

Cathepsin K is required to maintain adequate calcium levels in the body, but it can be highly destructive because it has the ability to break down bone by degrading collagen and elastin.

With this assay, Platt’s team currently is investigating whether cathepsin K activity is different in the cells of individuals with metastatic and nonmetastatic breast and prostate cancers and its role in cardiovascular diseases, such as stroke; in children with sickle cell anemia; and the inflammation associated with HIV.
Technology Square has a new dining destination sure to entice students returning to their dorms after a night on the town and alumni seeking postgame grub this football season. A Tech-inspired Waffle House opened its doors June 9.

Sandwiched between Jazzy Nails and Tan Spa and Great Clips on Fifth Street, the restaurant has all of the old Waffle House favorites. Diners still may order waffles with or without pecans and hash browns any way they like them, but now they can do so from the comfort of a white-and-gold-striped booth modeled after the rumble seat of the Ramblin’ Wreck.

There are even some familiar faces from campus. Rows of framed photographs of notable Tech alumni, including a dozen or more astronauts, dance instructor Arthur Murray and TV personality Vern Yip, hover above a banquette in a Wi-Fi room on the east side of the diner. Waffle House received help from Marilyn Somers, director of the Alumni Association’s Living History program, and the Student Center in compiling photos and Tech memorabilia.

Although Waffle House has been around since 1955, this is the first restaurant in the chain to be opened on a college campus. The Tech Square location also offers outdoor seating.

Georgia Tech is a fitting place for the restaurant chain, considering Waffle House’s numerous ties to the Institute. Bert’s Chili is named for Bert Thornton, IM 68, vice chairman. Walt Ehmer, IE 89, is the chain’s president and COO. Will Mizell, Mgt 87, is vice president. Joe Rogers Jr., IM 68, is the Waffle House CEO.

The opening of the new store marks a return to campus for former Yellow Jackets kicker Travis Bell, Mgt 08. Bell is district manager for the Tech Square and Underground Atlanta Waffle Houses and shuffles his time between both.

Bell learned about Waffle House’s management program through Jane Stoner, senior manager of Clubs for the Alumni Association, in early 2009. Within a month, Bell had been interviewed by the company and was in training. The program is a boot camp of sorts for restaurant management, starting its trainees on the floor waiting tables, taking orders, cooking food and busing tables.

“It’s tough, but the good thing is it’s three months of training, no previous experience required,” Bell said. “Every store has one manager. They have people above them, but that manager is required to run a 24-hour-a-day store. So in three months, you have to be ready to take over the keys and run a small business. It’s intense, but if you’re ready for it, I think it’s the greatest job in the world.”

Bell began the program in March 2009 and by June was running his first store. Within 10 months, he was promoted to head his two current restaurants.

He said he’s confident he will continue to move up the ranks. “The harder you work, the quicker you get promoted, and that’s why I like it,” he said. “It’s all performance based. It’s not about seniority, it’s not about how long you’ve been there, it’s not who you know. It’s how hard you work.”

Early-morning diners at the Tech Square Waffle House may see Bell hard at work at the grill this summer.

“The manager and the district manager, we’re still responsible for being able to cook,” he said. “We’re the first-shift grill operator, so every day I’m in my store, I’m cooking.”

Bell said he was a fan of Waffle House long before working for the company and frequented the eatery during his college days.

“I went to the one on Pharr Road,” he recalled. “If this one was here when I was in school, the whole football team would have been in here every night.”

Asked what he usually orders at the restaurant, he said, “I have a new favorite dish that I get now that I work here. I like to get the biscuits with gravy and scrambled eggs and cheese and sausage, and I mix it all together.”

— Leslie Overman
There is an obvious leitmotif to Annalisa Bracco’s office in the Ford Environmental Science & Technology Building, beginning with the shelves of books and journals on oceanography and extending to the photos of sailing trips and painted wooden fish. Bracco, an associate professor of oceanography in the School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, has led a life revolving around water. She has taken students on research cruises and has one planned for this fall in the Gulf of Mexico. Because of the disastrous underwater oil spill, the new topic will be the forced mixing of water and oil.

Hometown: I’m from Torino [Italy], where they had the Winter Olympics. I went back for it. It was cool because it’s not a tourist’s kind of place, but there were lots of tourists there. I watched the finals of the women’s skating.

Winter sports: It’s a big skating area — and skiing. The mountains are an hour away, and the ocean is an hour and a half away. I skied growing up. But everyone does there.

To the sea: I liked the ocean, and I learned how to sail. I started out studying geophysics [at the University of Torino]. There were two options, atmospheric science and oceanography. I liked the ocean more, so I chose that.

Sailing photo: It’s actually from when I sailed across the Atlantic in a week and a half. There were five of us. We only had a ham radio, the kind that’s just all of those crazy people talking. We heard that Hurricane Nicole was
coming through. It was late in the season, so that was very strange. We turned south, but we still went through the tail of it. It was a difficult 18 hours.

**Sleeping through the storm:** I actually did for a few hours. No one else did. I can sleep through just about anything. They were teasing me that, once the storm was over, they were all going to sleep and I could sail for a while.

**Secret trip:** My parents don’t know that I did it! I didn’t tell them. I put in e-mails and had them send out on delay. And I had a friend who was sending messages for me. If they’d known? It would’ve been problematic.

**Illustrated map:** It’s from Woods Hole on Cape Cod [where Bracco worked at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution]. It was drawn before my time, I think from 1989. It’s a drawing of the town, and you can see how everything is connected to the ocean.

**Office jungle:** When plants are dead, people bring them here. I usually can bring them back. I left one [plant] to my students while I was gone. I think it’s dead. They overwatered it. [She later revived the plant.]

**Climate change:** We do know the ocean is warming. And because it’s so much water, the amount of warming is huge. We’re putting a lot of CO2 into the ocean, and it’s changing the environment a lot. One of the things people don’t realize is that the oceans cover 70 percent of Earth. It’s extremely important we take that into account. It’s a huge player.

**BP oil spill:** It looks very bad for the local ecosystem, both marine and terrestrial, and for the coastline. The effects of the spill may last several years. Why that valve failed, we don’t know. It’s not impossible for devices to work that far down.

**Teaching style:** I get complaints about the amount of work. I don’t get complaints about grades. I tend to be nice. It’s mostly graduate students that I teach. They need to study for themselves, not for a grade.

**Painted fish:** I bought those on a research cruise in Brazil. We were studying arctic bottom water. It’s the densest water on the planet and some of the coldest. It moves along on the bottom, 4,000 meters down. We were looking for any signature of warming, but there was none. But this water travels for decades. So the water we measured might’ve been from the 1980s or 1970s.

**Eating Italian in Atlanta:** Atlanta has great food. That’s one of the reasons I came here. But I cook a lot, and it’s mainly Italian. If I go out, I want a change. I am taking students to Fritti though. [The pizzeria is owned by Riccardo Ullio, CE 90, MS EnvE 93.] They have good pizza.

**Monkey photo:** That was from a colleague in Malaysia. And the [wooden pen holder] was from a student in Madagascar. The photo of all of the students is from a UNESCO project. Most of the impact of climate change is in the tropics, and we brought students from different countries together to examine that.
Ten Questions

On the first floor of Tech Tower is the Atlanta outpost of Georgia Tech Lorraine. There, Catherine Bass manages academic programs and student affairs, and Florence Stoia manages the administration and faculty affairs. Both French natives, Bass and Stoia recount the run-ins with gypsies and bulls that keep them on their toes.

1. How did you both end up in Atlanta, telecommuting back to France?

Bass: I’m from Metz. My husband was on the faculty at Lorraine until he died in a car accident. I’d been teaching French.

Stoia: I grew up in a small town near the border with Spain. But I graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in journalism. My husband and I moved to Atlanta. I just happened to see the job at Tech. It was a complete coincidence, really.

2. Does the time difference make work challenging?

Stoia: We’ve been doing this for 10 years. We know what we
need to do. The majority of the work is first thing in the morning, which is the end of their day. We just pick up the ball and continue carrying it. But the French are a little more relaxed, so sometimes we have to push.

3. What’s Metz like?
   Bass: It’s very pretty. There are fields and lots of hills and woods. There are old castles. It’s next to Luxembourg. We were always occupied by the Germans.

4. Has there been a lot of interest in the Lorraine program?
   Bass: The summer program has always been very popular. We had a waiting list of 50 who didn’t get in this year. It’s not really study abroad. It’s the same professors and materials. It’s an opportunity to study what they would here in a smaller classroom. And it’s in France. Paris is just an hour and a half away, and there’s the fast train right there.

5. So the opportunity to travel throughout Europe is a big draw?
   Bass: The weekends have three or four days, so there’s a lot of time to travel. It’s intense during the week.
   Stoia: We’ve had students who get so tired from studying and traveling that they’ll fall asleep on the floor.

6. Where do they usually visit?
   Stoia: A lot of students go to Prague. It’s cheaper. The students always try to do the running of the bulls. We try to steer them away.
   Bass: We saw some in the newspaper who were running with GTL shirts on. One of them said he got hurt. Apparently he’d been drinking. He came back and had a hole in his forehead. He said, “I’m fine, but I can’t focus.”

7. What do students get out of all of the traveling?
   Bass: We’ve had students who haven’t been out of Georgia, and it’s a life-changing experience. You learn you can survive anywhere. We get so many questions from parents. “Is it safe? Do they need vaccinations?” They’re not going to the jungle.
   Stoia: It’s an eye-opener for sure. They all mix together and rely on each other.
   Bass: We had one student who met a girl on a train, and they ended up getting married.

8. Do you both enjoy traveling for leisure as well?
   Bass: I love the experience. The things that are different are good, but I like that people are the same everywhere. There are some things I can’t believe I did.
   Stoia: I moved to Spain at 17 by myself. The thrill you get about overcoming preconceived notions of people is what I enjoyed. And by yourself, there’s nobody to get you out of a jam.

9. What are some of your stranger job responsibilities?
   Bass: One summer, a student got lost in the Czech Republic and called at 2 a.m. There was another time I was in Metz we had a dorm next to a farm. There was a cow mooing, waking everyone up at 5 a.m. It had a horn growing into its eye. I had to call a man from the humane society, but we couldn’t find the cow. So I walked into classrooms and asked, “Can anybody tell me where the mooing cow is?”
   Stoia: [Laughs] In hindsight, it’s funny.

10. What’s the story about the gypsies invading the Georgia Tech Lorraine campus?
    Stoia: In the summer they have fairs, and some gypsies came and treated it like a camping ground. Because there were no gates it became a problem.
    Bass: The land on campus is all grass, so they just drove in and parked wherever. Sometimes in the morning, they had clothing lines from their SUVs to the buildings. They’re very gifted with their hands, if you know what I mean. One of our students had his watch stolen. By law, you’re not allowed to kick them out. So we placed boulders so they couldn’t drive onto the land.

— Van Jensen

Vive Lorraine

Georgia Tech Lorraine, the Institute’s first international campus, offered graduate classes through the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering when its doors opened in 1990.

Twenty years later, “it is a full-fledged Georgia Tech campus, with fully integrated activities and graduate education, research and technology transfer, including multimillion dollar research contracts and state-of-the-art facilities,” said Yves Berthelot, Georgia Tech Lorraine president and a professor in the School of Mechanical Engineering.

Georgia Tech Lorraine has expanded to offer master’s degrees in mechanical engineering and computer science. An undergraduate program was launched in 2001. And students from French institutions can earn a dual degree.

More than 3,000 undergraduate and graduate students and 100 Georgia Tech faculty members have spent at least one semester at the Metz campus.

President G. P. “Bud” Peterson made his first trip to Lorraine in June. While in France, he signed a four-year contract extension for an international research laboratory with the president of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique.

“We are also working closely with French authorities on a large-scale project called the La Fayette Institute — a new 20,000-square-foot building, including a 5,000-square-foot clean room and research equipment — for innovation and technology transfer in the area of optoelectronics, in cooperation with the Nanotechnology Research Center and the Enterprise Innovation Institute,” Berthelot said.

Peterson also attended an alumni celebration in Paris hosted by the Alumni Association and Georgia Tech Lorraine.

In December, the French consulate in Atlanta will partner with Georgia Tech to host a two-week celebration in conjunction with the fall commencement.
What’s in a Name

Skiles Classroom Building

Faculty members in the Skiles Classroom Building joke about how much trouble students have finding their offices.

Skiles, located at 686 Cherry St., is a three-story structure laid out as a rectangle. The confusion enters in because the building opens into a courtyard, and its eastern portion is disconnected from the rest of the building.

Skiles, which houses the schools of Literature, Communication and Culture and Mathematics, is named for William Vernon Skiles.

In Bob Wallace’s Georgia Tech history book *Dress Her in White and Gold*, Skiles is said to have joined the Institute in 1906 as an assistant professor of mathematics. He was appointed as executive dean in 1925, “and he was destined to eventually become one of the most powerful and most beloved men ever to set foot on campus.”

Skiles was said to settle for nothing below perfection when it came to scholastic accomplishments and was called “a forceful leader and a tough taskmaster. But because he drove himself much harder than he drove the students and the faculty, he was one of the most respected administrators in Tech’s history,” Wallace wrote.

Skiles also is credited with a deft sense of humor, having once quipped that a dean is “a man who has the authority over everything the president doesn’t specifically want to do.”

In his later years, Skiles was known to turn off his hearing aid whenever he was tired of a conversation — in full view of whomever he was listening to.

Skiles’ tenure ran through World War II, and he was said to have worked so intensely that it led to health problems. Wallace wrote that after Skiles retired it took three men to do his job.

Skiles retired in 1945 and died two years later at the age of 68, “a man who literally gave his life for Georgia Tech,” Wallace wrote.

One of Skiles’ often-repeated quotations summarizes the value he attached to teaching: “For after all what is finer than working with young men?” he said. “The teaching profession has advantage over all others. The doctor sees the boy when he is sick, the lawyer sees him when he is in trouble but the teacher sees him when he is young, ambitious and happy.”

— Van Jensen
Yellow Jackets on the Move

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Late on Friday and Sunday nights, a group of mostly graduate students takes over the Campus Recreation Center pool. They mark off a 25-by-15-meter rectangle with white PVC pipe on the bottom of the pool.

A lead disk coated with plastic is dropped in the center of the makeshift field. Two co-ed teams of six players each start at the far sides, all of them wearing snorkeling gear and holding foot-long sticks. Someone chants, “Sticks up, ready, go!”

Underwater hockey begins.

The sport started in England in the 1960s and has spread across Europe and to South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and South America. It has become particularly popular in Tasmania. Tech’s club started in 2008, said president Nicole Mazouchova.

She had picked up underwater hockey at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada, where a team has competed for nearly three decades. After coming to Tech to pursue a master’s degree in
biology, Mazouchova decided to start a club at her new campus.

“The club opened with a few curious members who came to practice mostly out of their disbelief of the sport,” said Mazouchova, who is now working toward a PhD. “We struggled in the beginning to get equipment and players in order to organize full games.”

Now the club (swordfishuwuh.com) has about 25 members and competes about six times a year against teams from the 30 other schools in the United States that have teams, including two in neighboring states. Tech’s club still has no competitors in Georgia.

While some team members came out of curiosity, Mazouchova said they stay for other reasons. “This sport is a great workout, is tons of fun and can be competitive,” she said. “And it is really unique, making it a great topic of conversation.”

— Van Jensen
Stamps Scholar’s Latest Honor: Academic All-Star

By Sarah Mallory

Georgia Tech senior Will Boyd has been named a 2010 Academic All-Star by USA Today. Recognized for his environmentally conscious leadership, Boyd is an example of the symbiotic relationship between progress and service.

While at Tech, the physics and computer science double major from Dayton, Tenn., has founded a company and a student organization, conducted undergraduate research around the world and won a competition for student inventors.

As an incoming freshman, Boyd was awarded a President’s Scholarship and named a Stamps Leadership Scholar, made possible by a gift from E. Roe Stamps IV, IE 67, MS IE 72.

“The Stamps leadership program is designed to attract the nation’s best student leaders to Georgia Tech and then to support them with unsurpassed opportunities to study abroad, conduct research and seek challenges,” said Randy McDow, IE 95, MS PubPol 03, director of the President’s Scholarship Program.

Boyd’s path to becoming a USA Today All-Star was heavily influenced by the Stamps Scholarship.

“I was fortunate enough to receive the scholarship as part of the President’s Scholarship Program. This scholarship made a huge impact on my life by not only making it financially feasible for me to attend Georgia Tech but also by making available a host of opportunities,” he said. “Being a Roe Stamps Scholar has meant that I have an obligation to live up to the opportunities that have been afforded to me and to make the world a better place as a result of them.”

Boyd is driven to integrate environmentally sustainable practices into science and society.

“I believe that my generation must redesign and rebuild our society to be more environmentally sustainable in order to not only allow humanity to continue to thrive and prosper but also in order to survive,” Boyd said. “I think that this effort will require both education of the public about environmental issues and their impact — both presently and for future generations — and strong leadership, particularly from the public sector, to make strategic and responsible decisions to transform us into a more sustainable economy.”

Searching for a way to reduce the harmful impact of emissions on Earth’s atmosphere, Boyd and his peers developed an idea to breed algae that feeds on carbon dioxide.

“We designed a chlorocyte bioreactor that can be used to grow algae. The idea behind our bioreactor was to feed algae carbon dioxide emissions from power plants,” Boyd said. “The algae would feed on the carbon dioxide, bind it into its biomass and effectively sequester it and clean it from the power plant emissions.”

This idea won Tech’s 2009 InVenture Prize contest for student inventors. “Our team was fortunate enough to win the competition with our design. Since winning InVenture, we have filed a patent on our bioreactor and started Sora Corporation,” he said. “My hope is to enter the world of business with a product that not only generates value for the economy but that does so in a sustainable way.”

As a student in the inaugural class of Tech’s Honors Program, Boyd and several friends developed GT Trailblazers, a student organization that has since evolved into the host of the Institute’s largest alternative spring break. It began as a spring break trip spent rehabilitating trails in the Appalachian Mountains near Harpers Ferry, WV. Today, the GT Trailblazers rehabilitate trails across the United States during fall, winter and spring trips, utilizing the skills of more than 50 students. The organization also works on trails around Atlanta throughout the year.

The challenge fund that provided seed funding for the GT Trailblazers also helped Boyd travel to conferences and labs around the United States to share his research.

Boyd considers his research with chemistry and biochemistry professor Joseph Perry on the photophysics of chromophore-coated silver nanoparticles one of his greatest accomplishments.

“I discussed my research at the European Organization for Nuclear Research, where I spent summer 2009 as an intern developing a computer simulation of CERN’s GRID computing network,” Boyd said.

Building off his research, Boyd hopes to enroll in a joint doctoral program in plasma physics with an MBA in the fall of 2011.

“One PhD in plasma physics, I hope to work on computational modeling and software development for nuclear fusion reactors,” he said. “In addition, I hope to use my MBA to work on startup ventures in renewable energy later in my career.”

Boyd also plans to hike the entire Appalachian Trail before beginning graduate school.
Tech Glee Club Was California Dreamin’ on a Springtime Day

The Georgia Tech Glee Club sent 35 members to California in May to perform for charities and military personnel. The singers spent a week in the state, starting off with a tour of Napa Valley. Later they performed during Sunday morning services at St. Helena United Methodist Church followed by a concert that raised $1,200 for the St. Helena food pantry.

The Glee Club also sang in San Francisco’s Jessie Square to benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Society, which supports homeless shelters in the city, and for St. Helena High School students. While in San Francisco the Glee Club also took a tour of George Lucas’ Industrial Light & Magic studio.

Dave Lo, CS ’00, a creature developer for ILM, led the students through the studio, showing them old movie props and some behind-the-scenes parts of filmmaking.

After traveling down the coast to San Diego, club members performed at the San Diego Medical Center to an audience of several hundred military personnel. Later, the club performed at Naval Base San Diego, where 1,000 handwritten cards from Tech students and Atlanta elementary- and middle-school students were handed out to injured troops.

A concert for Georgia Tech alumni took place at the La Jolla Country Day School in La Jolla, Calif.

The club’s air travel was provided by AirTran.

Institute Adds Three More Recipients to Fulbright Roster

The Institute’s 20-year history with the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board continued in late spring as two current Tech students and one former one were named Fulbright scholars.

Hunter Causey, Thomas Wall and Alice Wang were selected by the board. Now Georgia Tech has had 24 scholarship recipients in its two decades of involvement with the program.

Causey, CE ’09, who is earning his master’s degree in civil engineering, will spend 10 months in Mongolia studying the effects of climate change on the Tuul River and the people living around it.

Causey is an avid fly fisherman and world traveler with “a special appreciation for contributing to protecting one of the world’s most pristine river systems,” he said.

Causey also works with the Georgia Tech Initiative for Development and Education in Africa and has been a tutor in Atlanta’s International Community School.

Wall, MS CE 10, a civil engineering doctoral student, will study the relationship between climate change and transportation infrastructure at the University of Oxford and the University of Amsterdam.

Outside of his academic life, Wall has worked on global projects with the Georgia Tech chapter of Engineers Without Borders.

Wang, who graduated from Tech in May with an electrical engineering degree, plans to work in Cyprus to use computer technology to assist conflict resolution.

“I have always been interested in computer applications in international affairs and policy,” Wang said. “I was looking for a fellowship opportunity to go abroad for a year, and the Fulbright seemed a perfect match.”
Broken
Quadriplegic Ross Mason has an ambitious plan to fix spinal cord injury treatment

Story by Van Jensen
Photos by Kelvin Kuo

Mathematician Edward Lorenz was preparing to run a computer weather prediction in 1961 when he took a shortcut. He entered .506 into the number sequence instead of the full .506127.

That seemingly insignificant difference completely changed the predicted weather pattern. Lorenz’s finding helped establish chaos theory — the idea that dynamic systems can be highly sensitive to the smallest of influences.

A talk by Lorenz famously was titled “Does the Flap of a Butterfly’s Wings in Brazil Set Off a Tornado in Texas?”

On the evening of Aug. 2, 2007, a bee was flying along the Silver Comet Trail near Atlanta. The bee came into the path of a small but athletic man riding a bicycle. It collided with his face, becoming stuck in his helmet. The rider raised a hand to brush away the bee. As he did, his elbow grazed the handlebar.

The man was a competitive cyclist, and the bike was moving so fast that the slight movement of the handlebar threw it off course. The bike launched off the trail and landed with the rider’s feet still locked into the pedals, both sliding headfirst down a hill.

The cyclist’s head collided with something large and hard enough to crack open his helmet. When he and the bike finally came to rest, a piece of brush was pressed against his throat. He could barely breathe.

By instinct, the rider’s brain commanded his hands to push away the brush.

His hands would not move.

What Needs Fixing
Ross Mason, IE 92, lives in an expansive home in Atlanta. Off of a wide entrance hall is his office.

A broad desk is covered with papers but organized. The dark wooden walls are decorated with portraits of leaders from the American Revolution and Civil War.

Now 40, Mason enters, his motorized wheelchair moving silently across the floor. His features have rounded since his days as a world-class athlete, but he still has the same smile and energy.

Gisele Umutesi, who works as his caregiver, walks in. She fled...
the genocide in Rwanda and was granted asylum in the United States before landing in Mason’s employ. Umutesi asks about a remote control to turn off the TV in another room. Mason starts to suggest places it might be before realizing it is sitting in his lap. He can’t feel it.

In one corner of the room stands an easel that props up a whiteboard. Scrawled across the board is what looks like a family tree. Names and ideas are organized into a hierarchy. At the top, enclosed in a rectangle, is “HINRI Labs.”

The Healthcare Institute for Neuro-Recovery and Innovation (www.hinri.com) is Mason’s nonprofit. The scattered notes all connected to HINRI form a road map, a path to fixing what has been broken.

Mason isn’t obsessed with repairing his spinal cord. Always one to seek out challenges, he has taken it upon himself to repair the entire system of spinal cord injury treatment and to make Georgia the center of a revolution in regenerative medicine.

A Life of Extremes

Ross Mason grew up in Madison, Ga., where his family owned a peach farm going back several generations.

He followed his father, Robert, IM 60, to Georgia Tech. Wanting to squeeze the most out of every experience, Ross Mason became as involved as a student can be. He worked a co-op student at IBM, started a company to make energy-efficient lighting, served as a dorm resident assistant, joined Alpha Tau Omega, studied abroad, went on a mission trip to Poland and, finally, was elected student government president.

On the recommendation of Dean Jim Dull, Mason was accepted to the Wharton School. He deferred when a family friend offered a challenging opportunity: a teaching position in Siberia and a chance to establish a student exchange program with the University System of Georgia.

On the recommendation of Dean Jim Dull, Mason was accepted to the Wharton School. He deferred when a family friend offered a challenging opportunity: a teaching position in Siberia and a chance to establish a student exchange program with the University System of Georgia.

During his two years in Russia, Mason visited Moscow and learned that, in the wake of the Soviet Union’s collapse, the real estate market was booming. Seeing another challenge, he started a real estate firm in the city. Mason leased apartments from Russian owners, renovated the properties and then rented them to Westerners who were staying in the country for business.

He operated the company for 12 years, even after leaving Russia for Wharton in 1994. Once, he got a call that a unit had been taken over by Russian mobsters and converted to a brothel. The police suspected Mason’s involvement and threatened to have him arrested.

He finally had a friend with connections go to the mayor of Moscow, and authorities forced the mob out of the apartment. “I got a degree in entrepreneurial management from the Russian school of hard knocks,” he says.

After interning at Morgan Stanley while at Wharton, Mason helped the investment firm open its Atlanta office once he received his MBA in 1997. He enjoyed the position, but he missed the freedom of being an entrepreneur.
He left the firm in 1999 and used his free time to travel with family to Zambia, where they volunteered at an AIDS hospital. “That experience really changed my life,” he says. “It was so transformative. The people in Africa have the most amazing perspective on life. I knew that health care was my calling.”

But first he flew straight to the Canadian Arctic, where he and some friends planned to be the first sport divers in the frigid waters there. Mason laughs while recalling the dangerous adventures they had, including losing a snowmobile through broken ice and later diving to retrieve it from the ocean floor. The group, which later established the Arctic Kingdom adventure company, swam alongside polar bears, whales and walruses.

It was just the latest adventure in a life full of pushing toward extremes. Mason had been rock climbing, spelunking and surfing around the world. He was a NASCAR-certified driver and once bungee jumped off of Victoria Falls.

After leaving the Arctic, Mason moved to California for five years and helped start a health care Internet software company. He saw how the state invested in fledgling enterprises and future technologies, which led to the growth of Silicon Valley.

His next stop was in Germany, where he served as an adviser to the Volkswagen health care venture accelerator fund. The fund invested 280 million Euros in 90 companies, including 30 early-stage health care businesses.

“I wanted to develop a health care early-stage investment model in Georgia,” he said.

With a loose plan in mind of working as a health care entrepreneur in his home state, Mason returned to Atlanta. He became a fellow at Newt Gingrich’s Center for Health Transformation, vice chair of the state’s department of community health board and chair of the Georgia Free Clinic Network.

He helped the Free Clinic Network raise $600,000 in six months, which allowed volunteers to care for more than 250,000 homeless, indigent and uninsured Georgians. That care saved the state about $400 million in 2009, according to the state auditor.

“Georgia has a wonderful advantage in health care, but we haven’t focused as a state,” Mason says, referring to Georgia’s highly rated research institutions and hospitals. “Counties are competing against each other to promote local hospitals. There is a focus on collaborative investment in California that we don’t have here.”

On Aug. 2, 2007, Mason met for lunch with several fellow entrepreneurs. They talked about a company started out of research from Harvard and MIT that uses nanotech polymer implants to restore spinal cord function in injured patients. Mason and the others wanted to recruit the company to Georgia.

Mason left the meeting and seven hours later started a bicycle ride along the Silver Comet Trail. He was training for the New Zealand Ironman, what was to be his latest extreme challenge.

The Biggest Obstacle

Mason was struggling to breathe. He again told his hands to move. They wouldn’t. Neither would his legs.

Finally, his lower arm responded and pushed the branch away. He could breathe again, but he still couldn’t get up.

Some people hiking along the trail found him and called for an ambulance. When the emergency medical technicians arrived to take him to the hospital, one asked if Mason understood how seriously he’d been injured.

Mason said he did. The technician asked why Mason continued to smile.

“I told him I’d put my life in God’s hands,” he says. “If it was my time to go, it was my time to go. If not, God must still have something else for me to do here.”

It wasn’t his time.

At Grady Memorial Hospital, Sanjay Gupta was Mason’s surgeon. Gupta, the CNN medical correspondent, stabilized Mason’s smashed vertebrae.

Slowly some movement returned to Mason’s arms as he went through recovery and then rehabilitation in the following months at the Shepherd Center in Atlanta. Among his visitors in the hospital was Newt Gingrich.

But more challenges awaited Mason. He learned that he’d suffered a complete break of his spinal cord. He’d never walk again. A month passed before he could sit up without losing consciousness.

He needed to have his bladder drained every few hours by the nurses. But one day his bladder filled more quickly than normal, and a nurse at first refused to insert a catheter despite Mason’s spiking blood pressure.

“It felt like I had a spit running through my body, and I was being roasted over a fire,” Mason says. “That was the most helpless feeling. I couldn’t move, I couldn’t push a button. You’re completely dependent on someone else, and if they’re negligent, you’re going to pay the price the rest of your
Some of my dearest friends just went away because they couldn’t handle it.

life. I was a 38-year-old man, and I just wanted to go to the bathroom.”

Finally, the nurse drained Mason’s bladder, which by then was four times fuller than it should have been. Mason says he could’ve easily gone into dysreflexic shock and suffered brain damage.

While Mason says the support of his family and friends was crucial for him making it through that difficult time, his injury was too difficult for some of them to deal with.

“Some of my dearest friends just went away because they couldn’t handle it,” he says. “They don’t want to be around me. I’ve had that happen with a number of people I’ve known all of my life.”

One of the biggest challenges that arose was cost. The expense of his treatment began to mount. Mason’s insurance company didn’t want to pay for his care and claimed his injury was a pre-existing condition.

“If your insurance company can successfully fight you for two years, they can defer payment until you go on Medicaid,” he says. “Most patients with a spinal cord injury end up having to pay for rehab out of pocket.”

Mason also tried alternative treatment methods such as interactive manual therapy, but those cost thousands of dollars a week.

The expense of spinal cord injury treatment is taxing the health care system, according to a 2009 report from the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation. Spinal cord injury treatment alone costs $40.5 billion per year in the United States.

Nearly 5.6 million Americans live with some form of paralysis, the report states. About 1.3 million are living with spinal cord injuries.

Mason began to do more research during the following two years of recovery and learned that one of the main causes of permanent paralysis isn’t the injury itself but the inflammation that follows. He met with leading researchers from China, where surgeons routinely cut open the spinal cord to relieve inflammation. There, about half of those with complete spinal cord injuries walk again. In the United States, where surgeons operate around the spinal cord to secure the vertebrae, only 1 percent of patients with complete injuries walk again.

Patients in China also receive a standard of six hours of therapy a day for six days a week, no matter how serious the injury. In the United States, insurance will pay for rehab only for those who have “incomplete” injuries — in which patients retain some function or sensation below the break. But even those patients receive only three to five hours of treatment per week.

“Tha’t’s unacceptable,” Mason says.

Overcoming Challenges

One day during rehab, a nurse handed Mason a pencil and asked him to write the alphabet.

“I asked if I’d get a diaper as a reward,” he recalls his sarcastic response. “Why not tell me to write a letter to a wounded soldier? That would serve a purpose. That would motivate me to write again.”

Mason had the military on his mind. He’d been working on his plan to fix spinal injury treatment, and he wanted to establish Georgia as the center of spinal cord research. And he’d discovered that a partnership with the U.S. military was key.

Mason had met with Gingrich and leading researchers. He testified before Congress in March 2009 regarding the congressionally directed medical research program’s first allocation for spinal cord injury research. But one problem kept arising: “bringing money to Georgia.”

In August 2009, Georgia Sen. Johnny Isakson and Mason hosted a meeting with the state’s health care, business and philanthropic leaders to discuss opportunities to become a player in the industry, particularly the nexus of engineering, computer science and biology.

In the meeting, Mason pointed out that other states were investing millions or even billions in bioengineering research and health care technologies. By contrast, Georgia announced it was committing only $400,000 to become a “global center of medical innovation.” Mason needed to find another way to fund his dream.

Earlier in 2009, the Department of Veterans Affairs created the Veterans Innovation Center to provide funding for research that could improve the lives of injured veterans. And it was looking for a home.

“Why shouldn’t that be in Georgia?” Mason asks. “A partnership with the military could make the state an international leader in restorative medicine.”

Quickly, the lines in Mason’s road map came together. Augusta is home to Fort Gordon and the Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center. The city has the nation’s largest warrior transition battalion, burn center and active duty spinal cord injury population. Atlanta has a VA medical center, top hospitals and Georgia Tech and Emory, which operate the joint Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering. The department is ranked in the top three in the nation for graduate and undergraduate bioengineering programs.

Hundreds of other little details were gathered into the plan, with Mason always seeing more opportunities and more problems to fix. He wants to recruit the Morehouse School of Medicine into the
Georgia Research Alliance, create a statewide collaboration on clinical trials and fix technology transfer, among others.

He launched the nonprofit HINRI Labs earlier this year to serve as the center of this effort, a single connection point for all of the disparate groups, agencies and individuals involved. Mason hopes to partner the nonprofit with the Veterans Innovation Center to bring funding to researchers and then to spin off for-profit businesses from that research.

Mason talks quickly, constantly gesturing with his hands and directing his wheelchair back and forth across the floor. The intensity of his days as an extreme athlete and serial entrepreneur haven’t faded. He’s just learned new ways to channel it.

“We’ll take intellectual property and commercialize it,” he says. “We can drive collaboration between PhD researchers, clinicians, patients and companies with exciting new technologies. Right now it’s a totally disconnected system with everyone operating in silos and not communicating.”

But on his whiteboard, everything connects. It is a completed circuit, each part communicating and partnering toward a single goal: repairing broken spinal cords.

The first step for making the map a reality is recruiting the Veterans Innovation Center. Currently its leaders are deciding between establishing the center in Georgia or Illinois. To bring the center to Georgia, Mason has been raising a needed $3 million, with less than $1 million to go.

He’s planning fundraisers to make sure he’ll meet that objective. It’s just one more hurdle he’s determined to overcome.

Taking Flight

There is a common misperception about chaos theory. Because such small things can wield such great influence, the logic extends that people’s actions become meaningless next to the whims of an anarchic world.

But the butterfly effect simply means that, in certain systems, the fluttering of a butterfly’s wings could have a substantial impact. That butterfly isn’t a random factor but part of the system. The fluttering of its wings is a minuscule but necessary piece of the larger plan.

Mason believes in something larger, that his injury was necessary to help the lives of others.

“An injury like mine is a divine gift and a sacred trust,” Mason says. “I’m honored that God would trust me with a situation like this.”

He believes that greatness can grow from little things, like the fluttering of a butterfly or the flight of a bee.
101 Books

Tech Alums Should Read Before They Lay Dying

Think about it. What if you knew your days were numbered? Some people would write a bucket list, strap on a parachute and set off on an adventure. Some of us would run to the Barnes & Noble in Technology Square.

We asked a number of Georgia Tech students, staff, faculty (including associate professor Paul Verhaeghen, at right) and alumni their recommendations for books every Institute graduate should read before he or she dies.

No one suggested William Faulkner’s classic, As I Lay Dying.
1-4

Sometimes engineers make darn good writers. One of my current underexposed favorites is George Saunders, once a mining engineer, now a learned professor and certified-by-the-MacArthur-Foundation genius. Saunders — imagine him, if you will, as the tragic love child of Twain and Vonnegut (another writer-scientist!) — is our most deeply satirical and most disturbingly funny writer.

But what to recommend? There’s his first short-story collection, *CivilWarLand in Bad Decline*, but might stories about a Civil-War-themed theme park hit a bit too close to home for comfort, Atlanta? Then there’s the novella *The Brief and Frightening Reign of Phil* about a country so small it can contain only one of its inhabitants; the other six live in a transit zone within the neighboring country. What ensues is hilarity, war and genocide. Hmm. Perhaps better skip Saunders for this audience.

What about the prince of writer-engineers, Thomas Pynchon? *Gravity’s Rainbow* is my all-time favorite. What is not to love? World War II, banana breakfasts, prescient ejections in blitzed London, a long trek to Peenemunde (literally the end of the world), where the launch of a secret Schwarzgeraet (“black engine,” serial number 00000) is being prepared, and along the way we meet Byron the Lightbulb; Katje (rhymes with “gotcha”) Borgesius the sultry spy; Grigori, the well-trained octopus; and the apple-cheeked frau Gnabh, among many others. Silly songs, I mean, really silly. Three-page sentences. No way to even begin to comprehend this mess. Goes on for, like, 1,100 pages. I love it. But you might hate it. The nice thing: It’s easy to find out which way you’ll swing — read the first two pages and if they make you go, “WTF?” (in a good way), ‘tis the book for you.

The nice thing: It’s easy to find out which way you’ll swing — read the first two pages and if they make you go, “WTF?” (in a good way), ‘tis the book for you.

Otherwise, oh, go read Steven Pinker’s *How the Mind Works*.

Paul Verhaeghen
School of Psychology
associate professor and novelist

5-7

The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet’s Nest
by Stieg Larsson

It is the third book in the Lisbeth Salander trilogy by the late Swedish author. The trilogy began with the immensely popular *Girl With the Dragon Tattoo*. Larsson has created one of literature’s more unusual heroines in Salander, a petite hacker with a dark past. She is paired with financial journalist Mikael Blomkvist in plots that are complex and well woven. Get all three and have a marathon reading session.

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot

It is a recent nonfiction work about an impoverished African-American woman whose cells have been cultured since the 1950s and have produced some remarkable breakthroughs in the field of biology. The book addresses the ethics of science as well as its advances.

Island Beneath the Sea by Isabel Allende

It is the newest novel by the popular and critically acclaimed Chilean writer, Allende, who now lives in the United States. The protagonist is a slave concubine in the early 19th century, and the setting spans from Saint-Domingue to New Orleans.

Mary Axford
Library & Information Center
reference and subject librarian

8-12

As you would imagine, these suggestions come from my writing and my scholarly interests, but the choice is made not only because some of these works are profoundly important to Western thought but also because they are so accessible, allowing the reader a visceral sense of past realities:

Timaeus by Plato

I am not a classical scholar, but I find great pleasure in the way the dialogue presents the beauty and order of the universe.

The City of God by Augustine of Hippo

A work written as the faith of Christians was shaken by the sack of Rome in 410 arguing that Christians must drop from their consciousness the city of the flesh, Rome, in order for the “City of God” to arise.

The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire by Edward Gibbon

This one can dip into forever, a work of prodigious scholarship that never interferes with brilliant storytelling.

Democracy and Education by John Dewey

Difficult to read but a distinctly American document. This I have not looked at in years, so the recommendation came from a colleague.

Imperial by William T. Vollmann

I felt I should include one work from the present, and it may turn out to have less significance than it has for me now. It is a compelling yet bleak examination of American reality.

Alan Balfour, College of Architecture
dean and professor
Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World
by Tracy Kidder

Read it sooner rather than later. It shows that humanitarian and academic goals can survive in the same individual. The university can serve as a foundation for rather than a fence around good works. And it is exciting to read.

Wayne J. Book
HUSCO/Ramirez distinguished professor of fluid power and motion control in the School of Mechanical Engineering

The Art of Influence
by Chris Widener

I loved this book because it talks about how one can have an influence on everyone around him. It certainly helped me to understand the impact I can have on others’ lives.

The Talent Code
by Daniel Coyle

The basis of the book is about how people perfect their talents and become great at what they do. It’s a great read for coaches.

Tonya Johnson, pictured at left
Georgia Tech volleyball coach

Homer & Langley: A Novel
by E.L. Doctorow

Inspired by the real-life Collyer brother hermits, Doctorow delivers a poignantly written story of two brothers living in New York City amidst (and yet trying to separate themselves from) many of the major events of the 20th century. Homer is the narrator, and it is through his eyes (though he is going blind) we see the world. A great read.

City of Thieves: A Novel
by David Benioff

This tale of a young man’s struggle for survival in World War II Russia made me contemplate life, war, fate and the meaning of friendship.

Sherri Brown
Library & Information Center
first-year English instruction librarian

The Selfish Gene
by Richard Dawkins

The most lucid explanation to date of the age-old question of why we are here.

Parag Chordia
Music assistant professor

The Bible and King Lear
by William Shakespeare

I am fascinated by stories about leaders — both good ones and bad ones. These “must-read” books are filled with such stories. Along the same line, I also recommend anything written by Bill George (e.g. Authentic Leadership and True North).

Steve Cross
Executive vice president for research

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23-26

*Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* by Philip K. Dick; *Invisible Monsters* by Chuck Palahniuk; *The Kitchen God’s Wife* by Amy Tan; and *The Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold

Each of these books changed the perception I have of myself and the people around me. They are all thought-provoking books.

Kaliyana Finney, rising fifth-year computational media major

27-34

*A Step Farther Out* by Jerry Pournelle

Straightforward discussions of how technology can help us solve energy crises, environmental disasters and thrive both on Earth and in space. Almost 30 years old, long out of print, but used copies are readily available.

*Radical Evolution* by Joel Garreau

What happens when we use technology now on the drawing boards to transform ourselves? What does it mean to be human?

*The Skeptical Environmentalist* by Bjorn Lomborg

A well-documented and readable examination of many claims of the environmental movement. The mathematical reasoning— as opposed to the philosophical or emotional underpinnings of many environmentalists—is critical to understanding the real state of the world.

*Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths* by Bruce Feiler

An excellent historical overview that’s easily accessible to Christians, Jews, Muslims or those of any faith. It helps us understand that the current problems in the Middle East didn’t start in the 20th century.

*Alias Shakespeare* by Joseph Sobran

A completely convincing argument that, whoever wrote the works of Shakespeare, it wasn’t the man from Stratford-upon-Avon. It convinced me, at least, that Edward de Vere was the likely author.

*Truman* by David McCullough

An excellent biography of one of the three great presidents of the 20th century (the others being Teddy Roosevelt and Ronald Reagan).

*Surely You’re Joking, Mr. Feynman!* by Richard P. Feynman

An entertaining, funny and thought-provoking autobiography by the Nobel Prize laureate. It includes his time on the Manhattan Project during World War II.

*The Moon Is a Harsh Mistress* by Robert A. Heinlein

Arguably the best book by the inarguable best science fiction author of all time.

Stephen Fleming
Enterprise Innovation Institute vice president and executive director
35-39
The Effective Executive: The Definitive Guide to Getting the Right Things Done by Peter F. Drucker

There are many books that claim to tell you how to be a better executive; this one, first published in 1967, lays out very clearly what you need to do to be a more productive, more effective executive. I would start here and move on. All the others build on the concepts in this book.

Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap … and Others Don’t by Jim Collins

Again, what makes certain companies more successful than others? I like the research-driven approach Collins takes and the way he shows the various elements it takes to make a company successful. You can use this information both ways: to find great companies and to make your company great.

Nonbusiness books every Tech alum should read before he dies:
Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss

Everyone knows the last page, “I do like green eggs and ham,” but the key is how persistent Sam I Am is to get the other character to try green eggs and ham. Sometimes life is like that—he who is most persistent gets the shot. It’s a wonderful metaphor for the sales process.

Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare

Great story, larger-than-life characters, but the speeches! The intrigue! The love of country versus the love of one’s friends.

The Sound and the Fury by William Faulkner

I was introduced to this book at Georgia Tech, and it made an indelible impression on me. Yes, the story takes some unpacking, but it is so meaty, it draws you in again and again. The richness of the story, the feelings it evokes, the form, the use of time, to me the example of a great novel. It’s worth the effort.

Moshe Gordon, ChE 01 Young Alumni Council president

40
Creation by Gore Vidal

There is a new edition that includes four chapters that were cut from its first publication in the early 1980s. It’s a fascinating historical novel with a global sweep and an important theme (origins), and the additional chapters make it an even better read.

William Green
Mathematics professor emeritus

41-44
Nicomachean Ethics by Aristotle

It’s not as dull as it sounds — far from it. The ancient Greek philosophers are extraordinarily accessible, and their work is still the basis for much of our politics, culture and social life. In Ethics, Aristotle writes about friendship, justice, virtue and courage. Most important, he reflects on what it is to be good and how to be happy, pretty much everything you need to know to be a proper human being, at any age.

Summer and Ethan Frome by Edith Wharton

These are two short novels and should be read back to back. Read Summer outside on a very warm day with your favorite cold drink, then find an overly air-conditioned room — and hot drink — to read Ethan Frome. These are gripping books about ecstasy and suffering, written by our master American storyteller. Fiction does not get any better. Oh, and Edith Wharton is certainly not “chick lit,” so men, no excuses!

45-47
His Excellency: George Washington by Joseph J. Ellis

He was a warrior and uncommon leader, but Washington was a person as well, with emotions as complex as one would hope for in a man of his stature. Centuries later, we cannot know him, but in this book Ellis makes the iconic American figure come alive. While fighting a revolution and inventing this nation, Washington was homesick, funny, lonely and exceedingly selfless in ways that make him far more lovable than he looks on that dollar bill.

Susan Herbst
University System of Georgia executive vice chancellor and chief academic officer and School of Public Policy professor

The Elements of Style by William Strunk Jr. and E.B. White

The perfect companion for perfect writing — and entertaining besides.

The Structure of Scientific Revolutions by Thomas S. Kuhn is an analysis of the history of science. Its publication was a landmark event in the sociology of scientific knowledge and popularized the terms paradigm and paradigm shift.

Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the
All-American Meal is a book by investigative journalist Eric Schlosser that examines the local and global influence of the U.S. fast food industry.

Paul Houston, College of Sciences dean and School of Chemistry and Biochemistry professor

48-53
The Pillars of the Earth by Ken Follett; Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson and the Opening of the American West by Stephen E. Ambrose; The Foundation Trilogy by Isaac Asimov; East of Eden by John Steinbeck; The Seven Storey Mountain by Thomas Merton; and Alexander Hamilton by Ron Chernow

Joe Irwin, IM 80
President of the Georgia Tech Alumni Association

54-56
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee, Go Tell It on the Mountain by James Baldwin and Atlas Shrugged by Ayn Rand
They are all very profound works that allow me to reflect on both myself and my surroundings.

Corey Boone, pictured at right
Rising fourth-year management student and president of the undergraduate student body

57-60
The Secret by Rhonda Byrne; The Precious Present by Spencer Johnson; Wooden on Leadership by John Wooden; and The Blind Side: The Evolution of a Game by Michael Lewis

MaChelle Joseph
Women's basketball head coach

61
The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams
It's accessible, thought-provoking and hilarious. I wouldn't have made it through my first semester at Tech if I didn't religiously follow the guide’s most important rule: “Don’t panic.”

Holden Link
Rising fourth-year computational media major

62-63
The Leopard by Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa and The Prince by Niccolo Machiavelli
Machiavelli provides the philosophical foundation for the story in Lampedusa's The Leopard.

Charles Liotta, Regents professor and School of Chemistry and Biochemistry interim chair

64-65
Please Understand Me II: Temperament, Character, Intelligence by David Keirsey
This book does a great job of describing a variety of personality traits based on Myers-Briggs types, including their benefits and
caveats. It is a very useful book in learning to see how others see you, as well as to appreciate the variety of talents that people have. I truly found this useful to explain how my brother and I got along, as we are opposites on every aspect considered by this book.

*The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* by Stephen R. Covey

While some may see this book as providing corporate buzzwords, it does give a solid framework for discussing leadership in everyday life. If you’re looking to make a change in your productivity, this is a great place to start. I was fortunate to have my co-op employer, Georgia Power, use this as part of our training.

Randy McDow, IE 95, MS PubPol 03
President’s Scholarship Program director

*Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison

A classic that still seems fresh after 50 years, a book about race but much more than that, with a complex and compelling portrait of an individual as he comes to terms (maybe) with American society and with an equally impressive evocation of the power of jazz.

*Absalom, Absalom!* by William Faulkner

A challenging but engrossing process of discovery, a true must-read for everyone from the South, or any other part of the country, particularly anyone who thinks that the Civil War and slavery are somehow isolated in the past and no longer part of our personal and familial identity.

Gregory Nobles
Georgia Tech Honors Program director and professor of history

*Outliers: The Story of Success* by Malcolm Gladwell

We had the entire strategic planning steering committee read this in preparation for our plan development this past year.

*How an Economy Grows and Why It Crashes* by Peter D. Schiff and Andrew J. Schiff

It helps a non-economist understand what happened to our financial system.

G. P. “Bud” Peterson
President of Georgia Tech

*You Don’t Need a Title To Be a Leader* by Mark Sanborn

I’m just starting to read it, and it looks interesting so far. Certainly my all-time favorite is the irrepressible Jack Welch and *Winning*.

Dan Radakovich
Director of Athletics

*Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston; *In Search of Our Mothers’ Gardens* by Alice Walker; *Playing in the Dark* by Toni Morrison; *Kindred* by Octavia E. Butler; *Women of the Silk* by Gail Tsukiyama; *In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez; and *Technical Difficulties* by June Jordan

I have to say that for a lover of books this question is fairly impossible. There are so many volumes that have so much to offer. So what I’ve decided that I can reasonably do is to offer a short list of books that are favorites for many reasons and that serve typically to broaden the horizon. You might take note that all are written by women of color and that they are a combination of fiction and essay collections.

Jackie Royster
Incoming dean of the Ivan Allen College

*The Fountainhead* by Ayn Rand

It lets you know that as a creative individual you’re not alone. I don’t subscribe to all of the beliefs presented here, but it’s a good book to read when you’re feeling beaten down by the system.

*Free: The Future of a Radical Price* by Chris Anderson

It really opens your eyes to what the future will bring.

*The Second Coming of Steve Jobs* by Alan Deutschman

An incredible take on the “Legend of Steve,” complete with some fascinating information on Pixar and its creative process.

*Jonathan Livingston Seagull* by Richard Bach

I grew up on the Neil Diamond songs inspired by this book, and it’s a wonderful book about believing in yourself.

*Story* by Robert McKee

I don’t have any formal training in storytelling, and this book has been invaluable.

Andy Runton, ID 98, MS ID 00
Author of the *Owly* graphic novel series

*Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky; *David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens; and *Candide* by Voltaire

Steve Salbu
Dean of the College of Management

This book made me want to study literature for the rest of my life. The fight between Dante Riordan and Mr. Dedalus and the long sermon about hell are so realistic that they’re almost painful to read.

*Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens

Dickens is to literature what “Pistol” Pete Maravich is to basketball or George Best is to soccer — an artist so unbelievably gifted, so
naturally talented, that sometimes he seems to abandon what he’s supposed to be doing just to see what he can do. Pip’s sad story is very moving, but the real thrill of the novel is the way every page seems to offer up a brilliant little caricature, or a perfectly captured accent, or an endless sentence that pulls you along with it for line after line. Pure reading pleasure.

Aaron Santesso
Assistant professor in the School of Literature, Communication and Culture

89-92

Middlemarch by George Eliot
It is set right as England is on the verge of passing the Reform Bill of 1832. Thus it depicts England on the cusp of the modern age. It has great characters too. I suspect that everyone who reads it will recognize the Dorotheas and the Rosamunds in their own lives.

Middlesex by Jeffrey Eugenides
The novel is accurate so far as modern concepts like intersexuality are concerned, and it also depicts racial tensions in Detroit during the 1960s, but it’s basically a great novel with rich, compelling and memorable characters. Since all Americans were immigrants once, it provides insights into the immigrant experience. I’ve taught it twice and, despite the fact that it’s long, my students always love it.

Dracula by Bram Stoker
It depicts the fears that were pervasive at the end of the 19th century as the world became modern. Pitting modern science and technology — Stoker was a real gadget freak who rode bicycles and felt that the typewriter had changed his life — it also demonstrates the fear of the past, of sexuality (especially female sexuality in the era of the New Woman) and of the animal aspects of human nature (clear evidence that Stoker had read Darwin).

Plus everyone should read the novel that created the modern idea of the vampire. Very different from Twilight, The Vampire Diaries and anything by Anne Rice before she became Christian again.

The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver
It’s been a while since I read it, but I thought when I did that it would be one of the novels from the ’90s that will still be read in a hundred years. It explores America, the developing world and the place of religion in the world.

Carol Senf
Professor and associate chair, School of Literature, Communication and Culture

93

The Pulitzer Prize-winning book by Jared Diamond entitled Guns, Germs and Steel. It provides ecological reasons why certain cultures developed materially rich societies and others did not. It combines biology, anthropology and history in a fascinating milieu that explains a lot of observations.

Terry Snell, interim chair and professor
School of Biology
94

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho really changed my view of things and motivated me to be the best I could.

David Turk
Rising fourth-year computational media major

95-96

The Calculus of Friendship: What a Teacher and a Student Learned About Life While Corresponding About Math by Steven Strogatz is a selection of letters from a 30-year correspondence illustrating mathematics, friendship and mentoring.

The Princeton Companion to Mathematics, edited by Timothy Gowers, is a magnificent panorama of a huge swath of modern mathematics. Not a book to read through but to dip into as need and curiosity dictate. Any Tech graduate could find it enormously rewarding.

Doug Ulmer
School of Mathematics chair and professor

97-98

The First Three Minutes by Stephen Weinberg
An exposition of our current understanding of the Big Bang origin of the universe written for the lay public but at a high level appropriate for Tech graduates.

Mr Tompkins in Paperback by George Gamow
A wonderfully imaginative fantasy that imagines what the world would be like if the effects of special relativity and quantum mechanics operated in our everyday life. Terrific as a gift for a bright high school student.

Andy Zangwill
School of Physics professor

99-101

Be the Change! Change the World. Change Yourself.
Edited by Michelle Nunn, co-founder and CEO of Hands On Network. Continue to be inspired to serve others and enhance your own life in the process. Learn practical ways to create change by reading stories and tips shared by both prominent and everyday citizens. Note the “small acts to change the world,” No. 2 on page 266. Remember, one person can and does make a significant difference!

Bicentennial Man by Isaac Asimov
Consider what it really means to be “human” — a confidant, a trusted friend, one of the family. Science fiction precedes science fact; read it with both an open mind and open heart. And then see the movie, of the same name, starring Robin Williams. It brings me to tears each time I view it.

Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers by Mary Roach
Contemplate, with respect and humor, the usefulness of and aesthetic qualities of cadavers. Stiff was given to me several Christmases ago by an alumnus who knows of my desire to donate my body. I am a cadaver donor for Emory University’s School of Medicine. Death is an intrinsically intertwined part of life. As my mama used to say, “Do for the living!”

Billiee Pendleton-Parker, at right
Assistant director of the President’s Scholarship Program
Orbiting Earth or running ground operations, Tech alumni are a vital part of the past, present and future space program.

151 NASA Jackets

Georgia Tech’s mark on the U.S. space program is indelible. From its first days, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration has attracted Tech alumni like John Young and Richard Truly, who enjoyed truly stellar careers.

The stories on the following pages will highlight some of the challenges ahead for NASA and the roles being played by Tech graduates.

Tech President G. P. “Bud” Peterson explains how NASA is poised to reinvent itself and what kind of impact it will have upon scientific development and economic growth.

Jan Davis is retired from NASA, but as the first female Tech graduate to orbit the Earth, she has fascinating stories to tell of her three trips to space.

Amanda Mitskevich is the manager of the launch services program at Kennedy Space Center and oversees NASA’s domestic expendable launch services for robotic missions.

The Johnson Space Center is home to dozens of Yellow Jackets. Many credit their time at Tech for providing the solid foundation that has led them to successful careers at NASA.

While there isn’t enough space to pay tribute to every Georgia Tech student or alum with connections to NASA, we highlight 151 of them here.
Reinventing NASA

By G. P. “Bud” Peterson

Our space program, once the envy of every nation on Earth, has been showing its age of late. Its ambitions, though laudable, are starting to appear a little outdated. Technologies that once dazzled the masses now seem almost everyday and routine. Visions of new planetary terrain, once the fodder of science fiction, seem somewhat commonplace in light of the discoveries made by robotic spacecraft and the capabilities of other countries. And while the moon remains a fascinating destination, an entire galaxy of other regions — and countless possibilities — is just waiting to be explored.

With a renewed sense of energy and vision, NASA is well positioned to reinvent itself. [In April] President Obama outlined an ambitious new plan that focuses NASA’s efforts on bold new exploration goals through the development of exciting aerospace technologies.

While some are lamenting the cancellation of a return to the moon’s surface, the type of inspiring vision proposed is exactly what is needed to propel the United States beyond the trappings of the technologies developed nearly 50 years ago and to again take a leadership role through innovation and daring, the qualities that first took us to the lunar surface in 1969.

While some of the president’s plans are exceptionally grand in scope — landing on an asteroid, walking on Mars — the bulk of this vision will have a tangible and positive impact upon scientific development, our brightest talent and economic growth.

The most exciting element of NASA’s new direction is a greater emphasis on research and innovation. Instead of limiting ourselves to repeating past accomplishments, this renewed emphasis establishes new and challenging goalposts that once again can place the United States in a technological leadership position that can and will be admired by the rest of the world.

To move beyond the moon will require new transportation architectures, propulsion systems and a host of other technological innovations. This new vision of U.S. space exploration encourages NASA to collaborate with academia, private industry and its international partners to design and develop these technologies, a challenge that couldn’t be more timely.

A commitment to working with startup companies to develop the technologies and hardware necessary for success will inspire and create a new generation of businesses and technology-focused jobs and will nurture and strengthen our top research institutions. With this new emphasis, NASA will return to its roots as an important catalyst for
innovation and economic expansion for the U.S. economy.

Aerospace companies aren’t created in a vacuum. The fundamental ideas and breakthroughs that form the core of these businesses are typically developed at research institutions focused on fundamental science and commercializing the technologies developed. These institutions have historically served as the cradle of progress, providing opportunity in all sectors of our economy.

In an almost prescient manner, the president’s budget request for NASA lays a foundation for future generations of technologists, engineers and scientists by committing to major new initiatives in education, from middle and high schools to the university and postgraduate level.

One of the most exciting elements is a new graduate fellowship program — equivalent in stature to current opportunities from the National Science Foundation — that will enable 500 graduate students per year to develop new technologies and work at NASA research centers.

This new attitude is truly reflective of the 21st century, engaging industry, academia and our international partners to work together and collaborate in order to reach once unimaginable goals.

Space is a big place with many compelling destinations. Focusing NASA’s budget on the technology of space travel will unleash a host of new options for exploration well beyond Earth’s orbit. A future sojourn to the lunar regions — which admittedly is a worthy goal and still has plenty of terrain left to explore — could one day prove easy by comparison.

The president has presented us with a difficult challenge, one that will push our definition of progress and the limits of our imagination.

If we succeed — even partially — we will in the process have created exciting new industries and dynamic new traditions and will have re-established the United States as the premier center of innovation and technological development in the world.

That surely is a worthy aspiration.
By Kimberly Link-Wills

Amanda Mitskevich could be a NASA cheerleader. Compact and energetic, she sprinkles her sentences about space missions with “pretty neat” and “really cool.” She even looks a bit like the female cheerleader in the 1990s Saturday Night Live sketches.

But Mitskevich’s job is no laughing matter. She runs with the big boys as manager of the launch services program at Kennedy Space Center. Promoted from deputy manager this past winter, Mitskevich oversees NASA’s provision and management of all domestic expendable launch services for robotic missions. It’s an organization of about 500 people, half civil servants and half support contractors.

She has been working her way up the NASA ranks since July 1987, just a couple of months after she graduated from Tech with an industrial engineering degree.

The notoriously skewed male-to-female ratio at Tech in the 1980s made the transition to the male-dominated NASA easy. In fact, Mitskevich can’t think of an instance in her more than two decades on the job in which she felt the tinge of discrimination because of her sex. A recent case of gender assumption only made her laugh.

Mitskevich recalled arriving on site for the February launch of a solar dynamics observatory. “I’m looking for where I’m supposed to park, and I pull in and it’s labeled Mr. Mitskevich. I took a picture of it” to show husband Geoff Mitskevich, Phys 86, she said. “It doesn’t bother me. They’re used to mostly guys.”

The difficulty of Tech course work also prepared Mitskevich for her roles at NASA.

“We have to solve a lot of hard problems, whether they be technical problems or just things that you learn in industrial engineering in terms of interactions with people, organizational dynamics,” she said. “I started out in shuttle logistics, which was kind of typical industrial engineering work. I was there for five years, and then I went into shuttle operations, more hands on with the orbiter and the shuttle.”

Mitskevich agreed that the launch services program, which she joined 12 years ago, doesn’t get the media attention that the space shuttle and its crews do. “But I would never trade this for the world. Each of the missions we do is so different. You have all sorts of science that each mission does. Last year we launched the [lunar reconnaissance orbiter and lunar crater observation and sensing satellite]. One of the missions circled the moon, and one of the missions crashed into the moon. It was the first mission back to the moon so it was really cool.

“We also do the Mars missions. Spirit and Opportunity, we launched those. Anything that’s scientific or exploration that doesn’t need human interaction we launch,” she said, looking forward to the 2011 launch of a Mars lander, “the size of a Volkswagen Beetle. It’s basically a roving laboratory. It’s going to be a really exciting mission.”

“Pluto New Horizons arrives to begin its mission July 2015, so it takes close to 10
years to get there. The missions we’re launching you’ll hear about for a long span of time,” she continued. “There have been lots of pictures of Saturn recently. That was the Cassini mission that we launched. They all come through here, they sure do.”

Mitskevich’s group works on 40 to 50 missions at a time and averages six to seven launches a year. IMAGE was her favorite, she said, because she served as mission manager for the March 2000 launch.

“It was one of those that went out to the magnetosphere and had all sorts of different scientific aspects. I felt close to it because when you’re a mission manager you work on it five to seven years. Some of the scientists work 20 years on the science before they get it launched. They are so attached to that mission that you want every single thing in the world to go right for it. You get really close with that team and the mission itself. When you watch your own launch, it’s really something,” she said.

“Once the spacecraft separates, then we’re done with the mission. But it’s kind of nerve-racking after the launch. The launch will be successful, then you’ll have maybe an hour and a half to wait until the spacecraft separates. You can’t do anything about it if it doesn’t. You’re just watching the data at that point. When the spacecraft separates, it’s a huge wave of relief that everything is OK.”

A low point for Mitskevich’s team came with the February 2009 launch of the Orbital Carbon Observatory.

“The mission failed — the rocket failed. It was the first failure for the [launch services] organization since we’d been established in 1998. Most everybody in the organization had never been through a failure before. It’s almost like a death in the family. It’s heart wrenching to see and be part of. The images you remember are of the scientists who worked on it for a long time. When everybody came to the realization that it hadn’t separated, it was just a really, really sad thing to see,” Mitskevich said.

“Probably our biggest accomplishment as an organization was 10 days later we launched the Kepler mission” to look for other planets in the galaxy, she said. “We came right out of a failure and launched another mission.”

Glory, an Earth-observing mission, will launch about a year and a half after the 2009 failure. “It will be launching on the rocket that failed, so that will be a big one for us.”

She turns to her stored energy to combat stress. “I jog three times a week, and I exercise a couple of other times a week. That’s kind of my mind clearing, my therapy. That helps me focus on the important things I need to focus on. In fact, if it is a launch date and I feel stressed, I’ll definitely go for a run.”

Scoring firsts propels Mitskevich and her team. “A while back we launched the Messenger spacecraft. It will be the first to orbit Mercury. I’m excited to see that one get there.”

And Mitskevich hopes to see men and women set foot on another planet in her lifetime.

“I know the eventual goal is to get to planets, like Mars, and other bodies in the solar system, which should be really cool.”
Fifty Kennedy Space Center Workers
include Amanda Mitskevich and three married couples — Janine Captain, PhD Chem 05, and James Captain, MS Chem 01; Jackie Williams Quinn, CE 89, and Shawn Quinn, EE 90; and Jill Weaver Norman, AE 88, and Ray Norman, CE 83 — as well as Alan Alemany, ME 07; Derrick Bailey, AE 07; Arthur Beller, EE 68; Ellen Proper Brown, ISyE 85; Terence Burke, ME 82; Michael Canicatti, EE 90; Robbie Coffman, AE 04; Jon Cowart, AE 83; Taylor Dacko, aerospace engineering co-op student; Joe Dant, AE 05; Chuck Davis, ME 82; Hudson Delee, ME 01; Jennifer Dowling, aerospace engineering co-op student; Chrsissy Howard Du Quesne, ME 04; Dustin Dyer, EE 07; John Fablinger, ME 73; Patrick Faughnan, ChE 81; Randy Gordon, IE 90; Dana Hutcherson, ME 00; Amanda Killebrew, AE 09; Carla Koch, ME 07; Corrianne Lamkin, aerospace engineering co-op student; Gary Letchworth, MS ME 86; Jamie Posey McLean, IE 81; Paul Mogan, EE 86; Mark Nurge, EE 85, MS EE 86; Jim Ogle, EE 64; Jim Ravitch, ME 83; Luke Roberson, Chem 99; Edsel Sanchez, MS ECE 08; Edgardo Santiago-Maldenado, ChE 05; Russ Scott, ME 84; Michele Taylor, EE 88; Ernest Turner, EE 84; and Lili Villarreal, AE 96, MS AE 98. Help acquiring names and degrees was provided by Wanda Harding, MS EE 93, who is not pictured. Alumni who are not identified in the photograph may point themselves out at the Alumni Magazine Web site, gtalumnimag.com.
An Atmospheric All-Star

By Kimberly Link-Wills

Jan Davis walks among us as a commoner, yet this woman is a member of one of the most elite leagues on the planet. Only about 500 human beings have flown in Earth’s orbit. Davis was the first female Tech grad to do so. And she’s done it three times.

More than 10 years after her last shuttle mission, aboard Discovery in August 1997, Davis, ABiol 75, still is asked to speak to awestruck schoolchildren and adults to tell what it’s like to look down on Earth.

A Davis presentation, complete with photos and statistics, also holds the rapt attention of members of the North Alabama/Huntsville Georgia Tech Club, largely made up of current and former employees of NASA and its contractors. Davis is retired from NASA now but still maintains close ties to the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville as the vice president and deputy general manager of contractor Jacobs Technology.

Named an astronaut in 1987, a year after the Challenger explosion, Davis logged more than 650 hours in space. Davis’ first flight was aboard Endeavour in September 1992.

“My first flight was a Spacelab flight. It was just a wonderful laboratory for science,” Davis said. “We did a lot of life science experiments to try and understand why astronauts get sick. I didn’t get sick, just so you know.”

Davis showed a picture of herself in the orange partial-pressure suit, adopted by NASA after the Challenger accident. “The suit is attached to a parachute, and there are oxygen bottles inside the parachute in case you have to jump out of the shuttle. They’re very uncomfortable when you’re strapped in,” she said.

“The orbiter is cantilevered at the center of gravity so when the engines fire the whole shuttle tilts over about a foot. Then when it becomes vertical you take off,” Davis said. “People ask me what that’s like. You’re on your back. It’s like you’re in a chair and you’re just shaking like crazy … and then you get a big kick in the pants that sends you on your way.”

Eight and a half minutes later, Davis and her fellow crew members were in space, traveling 17,500 miles per hour.

Davis’ favorite things to see out a shuttle window were the sunrises and sunsets, “just beautiful, beautiful colors” splashing against the darkness for just a few seconds, she said. “You go around the Earth every hour and a half, so you see 45 minutes of darkness, 45 minutes of daylight.”
Davis was the ultimate storm chaser. “On every one of my flights I saw a hurricane or some kind of super typhoon,” Davis said. “I liked looking at water and clouds as much as anything. Most of my crew members would look at the land and as soon as we got to the ocean they’d go do something else, but I thought the cloud formations were really interesting. If you catch it right, islands and clouds form wakes, like boats. You see these wakes in the clouds. There are just phenomenal features in the clouds.”

When it was time to return to Earth, the crew put on the orange suits again. “You’ve been in space for a week or two, so everything as you’re coming into the Earth’s atmosphere feels really, really heavy,” Davis said.

“You feel heavy, everything you’re holding feels heavy because you’re not used to being in gravity. Your balance is a little off without the effect of gravity, and you haven’t been using the fluid in your ears for equilibrium. You’ll be a little off balance when you land,” Davis said.

Twenty Yellow Jackets at Marshall Space Flight Center are Warren Adams, EE 65; Christopher Beatty, Phys 96; employee referring to himself as George P. Burdell; Robyn Carrasquillo, ChE 85; Matt Chamberlain, MS ME 02, PhD ME 07; Corky Clinton, AE 73, MS AE 76, PhD AE 82; Jared Dervan, ME 04, MS ME 05, and wife Melanie Dervan, ChE 04; Nishkam Deshpande, PhD MetE 96; Bill Emrich, ME 73; Don Kaderbek, AE 88; Tawnya Laughinghouse, ChE 96; Carl Lester, ChE 78; Andrew Schnell, ME 06; Greg Schunk, ME 83; Scotty Sparks, MS TE 88; Peter Sulyma, MS AE 70; Bill Whipple, IM 61; Mickey White, AE 68; and Jessica Wood, ID 07.
Career Missions Accomplished

Astronaut and Johnson Space Center-based NASA co-workers on the ground credit Tech with setting them on the right course

By Marilyn Somers and Kimberly Link-Wills

A lan Poindexter’s enrollment at Georgia Tech was part of his planned trajectory into the sky.

“I had always wanted to be a Navy pilot. I knew that one of the ways to become a Navy pilot was through the ROTC program,” said Poindexter, AE 86, who followed his future wife to Atlanta after graduating from a junior college in Florida and worked as a part-time fuel truck driver at DeKalb Peachtree Airport while attending Tech.

While he was a Tech student, his father, John Poindexter, was serving as a vice admiral in the Navy. He was the guest speaker at his son’s Navy commissioning ceremony at Tech.

Another speaker helped Poindexter seal his decision to aim for astronaut training.

“I don’t know that I ever made it a career goal until my senior year at Tech. Admiral [Richard] Truly [AE 59] came and talked to us about one of his flights,” Poindexter said. “I spoke to him afterward and asked him what the career path was like.”

As a Navy pilot, Poindexter twice was deployed, during Desert Storm in 1991 and Southern Watch in 1993. He also earned a master’s degree from the Naval Postgraduate School before being selected as an astronaut in 1998.

He piloted STS-122 aboard Atlantis in February 2008 and commanded STS-131, a Discovery mission, this past April.

“Flying humans in space will probably never be easy,” Poindexter said. “Launching humans into orbit, meaning you have to launch them and their machine at a speed that is somewhere between seven and eight times faster than a rifle bullet, takes a lot of energy and is not a simple task. Sometimes people read about it and don’t understand the complexity, or perhaps we make it look easy because we’re successful most of the time.”

He said the crews undergo so much training in simulators that there are no surprises during launches. “Afraid is not how I’d classify it. I’d say alert. You know what you’re getting yourself into,” Poindexter said. “We’re ready to deal with a bad day.”

On both missions, Poindexter visited the International Space Station, “approaching a million pounds in space now with interior space about the size of a four- or five-bedroom house.”

He said cooperation aboard the space station shows that people from around the world, “with a common goal and common interests,” can work together despite their political or cultural differences.

“We’re doing science and technology that will benefit all of us for years and years to come,” Poindexter said. “From space, there are no borders.”

Jumping Hurdles

Jennifer Scott Williams, EE 01, attended Tech through the dual-degree program with the Atlanta University Center.

After three years at Spelman College working on a math degree, Scott Williams arrived at Tech for two years of engineering work. “It seemed big and a little bit menacing,” she said of the Institute.

She intended to pursue a degree in textile engineering — until she experienced a “defining moment.”

“I went to an electrical engineering
The STS-131 crew took time out from training for a group portrait looking out from the top of an M-113 armored personnel carrier. In front is shuttle commander Alan Poindexter, AE 86. An M-113 is kept at the foot of the launch pad in case an emergency egress is needed.
Jennifer Scott Williams, above, and Elizabeth Stewart Smith both earned dual degrees at Georgia Tech and Spelman College.

class in session, and the students were using their circuit boards to design circuits. One of the teams ... had LEDs, these little lights on their circuit board," Scott Williams said, recalling "when they finally got it set up, the lights started to dance, and I just thought that was the coolest thing ever."

Scott Williams interviewed with NASA through the Atlanta University Center. She also interviewed for jobs in consulting and investment banking. "I was leaving Tech with the mentality that once I had an engineering degree I could do anything," she said.

An on-site interview — and a visit inside a space shuttle simulator — at the Johnson Space Center in Houston convinced her that was the place for her. "I was an astronaut for like an hour, and I got to land the space shuttle. They hooked me," Scott Williams said.

A civil servant at the space center since August 2001, Scott Williams is a shuttle flight controller in the communications division, which monitors everything from cameras to telemetry. "Anything that has to do with talking to the crew, that's what we're responsible for," she said.

An antenna system, also the responsibility of Scott Williams' group, failed during Foindexter's shuttle mission in April. "We had to come up with another method to get video down," she said, describing the mood as "very tense" as the team developed a plan that involved using equipment aboard the space station. "It was a shock to everybody that it broke, but we had to work around it," she said, adding that mission control scenes from movies like Apollo 13 aren't much of a departure from reality.

Tragedy affects everyone at NASA. Scott Williams remembered the events of Feb. 1, 2003. "We were scheduled to land, and everyone was really excited," she said. "My group lead called me. I thought it was so strange to hear her voice. She said, 'We lost Columbia.' I sat there holding the phone. 'What? Am I dreaming?' It did not connect at all.... Words couldn't describe it. I had a million questions and no answers."

The tragedy brought the close-knit co-workers even closer. Tech alumni through-out Johnson Space Center wear their white and gold proudly. Scott Williams may be the proudest of them all. She arranged for the group photographs of Tech alums at Johnson as well as at Kennedy Space Center in Florida and Marshall Space Flight Center in Alabama.

Evolving Roles

Elizabeth Stewart Smith, ME 81, also attended Spelman and Tech through the dual-degree program, arriving in Atlanta in 1975 carrying hot pink luggage and wearing a suit, hat, gloves — "the whole nine." She also was tough as nails and determined to make something of herself.

"I paid the dues" to be a Georgia Tech graduate through six years of study between Spelman and the Institute, Smith said. "I had to get that degree."

Shortly after being hired as a research engineer at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, Smith took a leave of absence to return to her native Houston to care for her ailing grandmother.

"At the end of six months, she was back on her feet, and she told me to go get a life," Smith said.

Through a chance encounter with a Morehouse College graduate who worked for NASA in Houston, Smith secured an interview and transferred as a civil servant to the Johnson Space Center, where she has remained for almost 30 years.

In her early years with NASA, she worked in the space center construction division. "This place is amorphous. It continually changes ... with new science, new technologies," said Smith, who liked working on the evolving facility.

In 1985, she answered a call for volunteers to work on the space station, another evolving facility that houses Smith's projects from over the years. "They're still using my moding indicator" that lets the space shuttle crew know it's safe to dock with the station, she pointed out as an example.

"I was able to move forward and be promoted. I had lots of opportunities to lead. There are a lot of products that they're still using that I developed," said Smith, now the assistant manager of the space station program's integration office.

She said Tech prepared her well for the challenges at NASA.

"It was worth every minute," Smith said. "You are ready for anything. Seriously, you're ready for anything."

Tech also taught her how to lead and be led, she said. "If you don't work well with others [at NASA], you're not successful. A team does come up with a better answer than an individual. It really is true ... because you're pulling from different areas of expertise."

Smith is not disheartened by the impending end of the shuttle program. "If you're an old station person like me, it's what we planned all along. We always said there would be visiting vehicles. We always said there would be an evolution of uses."
The evolution of the space station revolves around worldwide cooperation, Smith said.

"Where we are now, the way our world economy is set, no one nation can afford to do it alone," she said. "We have to learn that we are not in this all alone. It doesn’t make us less of a leader. In fact, I think it makes us more of a leader. ... There’s something about the American spirit and the way we’re able to innovate."

Onward and Upward

Sathya Silva was in third grade when she chose her career path.

“One day it just hit me that I wanted to work at NASA,” said Silva, AE 08.

The desire didn’t wane as she grew into a teenager.

“I would stay home and watch documentaries about galaxies,” Silva said. “I was a little bit of a nerd.”

She learned about the Yellow Jacket Flying Club, which offers Tech students the opportunity to get pilots’ licenses more affordably than at a commercial school, at FASET, and she joined the club and began earning her wings soon after landing on campus as a freshman.

“I honestly can’t say I’d be the person I am today without the Yellow Jacket Flying Club,” said Silva, who was able to serve as the club’s supplies officer and then the vice president of programs while attending Tech as a co-op student.

The co-op program first took her to Houston, where she worked for the NASA contractor Jacobs Technology.

“You get your foot in the door” as a co-op student, said Silva, who was able to graduate in four and a half years and was hired by NASA before commencement.

Silva is a data processing flight controller for the space shuttle until September, when she enters graduate school at MIT.

The move from NASA, however, could be temporary as Silva still dreams of one day becoming an astronaut.

“The end of the shuttle program isn’t clouding her dream.

“I have confidence that they’ll come up with something,” she said.

Sathya Silva earned her wings as an undergraduate member of the Yellow Jacket Flying Club.
Seventy-eight Alumni and Tech Students Gather at Johnson

Among the Ramblin’ Wrecks at the Johnson Space Center in Houston are these 78 — including three astronauts, three married couples, four students, Jennifer Scott Williams and Elizabeth Smith — in alphabetical order:

Patricia Sweet Bahr, ESM 79, human adaptation and countermeasures division assistant chief, and husband Juergen Bahr, a World Student Fund scholar at Tech in 1973-74 from the Technische Universitait Hannover and now in payload integration for MEI Technologies; Derek Bankieris, CmpE 08, MS ECE 09, automation robotics and simulation division programmer; Michael Bernatovich, AE 08, space shuttle entry, descent and landing analyst; Parker Bray, an aerospace engineering co-op student in the motion control branch; Heidi Brewer, AE 05, a space shuttle flight controller, and husband Kyle Brewer, AE 05, a space station flight controller; Evan Brown, MS AE 02, Constellation program crew representative; Debbie Buscher, MS Math 91, exploration space systems integration branch chief; Vicky Byrne, MS Psy 93, Lockheed Martin human factors design senior engineer.

Jessica Calhoun, AE 08, space shuttle robotic flight controller; Al Conde, AE 80, Constellation program technology integration manager; Wendy Crisman, Mgt 04, contracting officer; Rebecca Cutri-Kohart, AE 01, space shuttle flight controller; Pete Cyr, AE 79, space station avionics and software systems engineer.

Kreta Desai, AE 07, United Space Alliance engineer; Lee Echerd, Biol 07, space station visiting vehicle integration office systems engineer; Ben Edwards, ME 84, senior systems engineer, crew exploration vehicle parachute assembly system; Megan Englert, AE 07, test engineer, crew exploration vehicle parachute assembly system; Robin Friedrich, AE 84, United Space Alliance engineer; Matthew Gast, graduating this summer with a master’s in aerospace engineering, United Space Alliance extravehicular activities instructor and flight controller; Sabrina Gilmore, AE 03, MS BioE 04, EVA instructor and flight controller; Bryan Grant, Mgt 06, human resources representative; Krista Guzelian, ME 08, space station life support instructor.

James Harder, AE 88, Boeing entry GN&C manager; Sarah Hargrove, aerospace engineering graduate student, space station flight controller; Quincy Harp, ME 99, space shuttle flight controller; James Hill, AE 91, systems engineer, space shuttle systems engineering and integration; An Hou, MS ESM 93, PhD AE 98, structural engineer, space station loads and dynamics group, Boeing-IDS; Robert Howard, AE 95, habitability design center lab manager and human factors lead on the Altair project, lunar electric rover and lunar habitation team/habitation demonstration unit; Therese Huning, AE 87, U.S. space flight training.

Genevieve Johnson, EE 94, simulation software manager for robotics on-board trainer flight project and robotics flight controller trainer; Shane Kimbrough, MS OR 98, STS-126 Endeavour astronaut; Renee (Johnston) Lance, ME 74, space shuttle engineer; Michael Leatherwood, MSE 07, space station materials and processes engineer; Dave Link, AE 06, space station flight controller.

Kavin Manickaraj, mechanical engineering student, cold stowage engineer; Mike Mankin, AE 87, manager, EVA operations office; Daniel Matz, AE 08, Orion entry team engineer; Bill McArthur, MS AE 83, STS-58, STS-74, STS-92, Expedition 12 astronaut, now manager of the space shuttle orbiter project office; Wayne McCandless, AE 78, group deputy director of mission systems and technology management; Bill McNicoll, AE 82, MS AE 83, space station vehicle technical integration; Kevin Moore, EE 80, Barrios space station on-orbit stowage technical lead.

Robert Napp, AE 89, space shuttle/station flight controller; Jason Nguyen, CS 99, senior systems analyst; James Orr, AE 71, United Space Alliance flight software element chief engineer; Jeffrey Osterlund, MS AE 98, United Space Alliance Constellation chief engineer and IR&D investment manager; Vickie (Maul) Otto, AE 05, extravehicular activities instructor and flight controller.

Michele Parker, MS IE 05, project manager; Todd Peters, MS AE 94, deputy division technical manager of energy systems; Robert
Phillips, IE 67, Futron Corp. Houston division director; Johanna Pineiro, AE 09, EMU substation manager/advance technology development engineer; Kara Pohlkamp, MS AE 07, space shuttle flight controller; Gary Pollock, ESM 70, MS ESM 71, space shuttle and space station robotics flight controller; Jefferson Powell, AE 86, MS AE 88, computer engineer.

Thillini Rangedera, AE 07, space shuttle flight controller; Kelly Rodrigues, ME 97, Orion vehicle test and verification office, for Booz Allen Hamilton; Sarah (Graybeal) Ruiz, AE 01, rendezvous guidance and procedures officer; Darren Sabino, AE 05, Boeing robotics verification engineer; Christie Sauers, AE 98, Orion cockpit working group/crew module mock-ups lead; Adam Schlesinger, MS ECE 07, Avionic communications systems engineer; Kenneth Smith, AE 95, space shuttle flight controller, and wife Myra (Dawson) Smith, Chem 93, Wyle integrated science and engineering safety specialist; Todd Smithgall, EE 83, Honeywell Orion project avionics architect; Ben Stahl, MS AE 07, Constellation ascent and abort analyst; Jason Stau, AE 99, Odyssey Space Research GNC analyst; Scott Stokes, ME 99, United Space Alliance space shuttle environmental systems flight controller; William Sun, aerospace engineering student, aircraft engineering branch; Casey Swails, Mgt 07, human resources representative.

Marcus Turner, EE 95, United Space Alliance technical lead, Orion simulation model development; Carlos Valrand, AE 65, shuttle flight software engineering staff; William Wallace, PhD Chem 03, toxicology lab lead; Doug Wheelock, MS AE 92, STS-120 Discovery astronaut and now at the space station for a five-month stay; Tony Williams, AE 82, Jacobs chief engineer, systems engineering and integration; Courtney Wright, MS OR 05, Booz Allen Hamilton systems engineer, Constellation supportability, operability and availability; Jimmy Young, MS AE 95, PhD AE 09, Ares Corp. senior systems engineer.

Pinpoint the Johnson Space Center crew members in the photo at gtaumnimag.com.
“I’m breathing,” McKinley Conway retorts when asked about his health.

While he says his body is giving out part by part, his mind is sharp. Conway, AE 41, who turns 90 in November, recently completed his autobiography, A Bad Case of Old Age: Enjoying a Great Life One More Time, a textbook-size tome. It’s his 47th book.

“It’s a wonderful thing to be able to do,” Conway says of the time he puts in writing every day.

Conway had a wonderfully varied career. At age 29, in 1949, he became director of the fledgling Southern Association of Science and Industry, a 15-state regional development alliance. In 1954, he started Conway Data, which launched Industrial Development, the first magazine focused on corporate real estate and economic development and the precursor to his Site Selection. He founded the International Development Research Council in 1961 and the Industrial Asset Management Council in 2002 and served two terms in the Georgia Senate.

He entered Georgia Tech at age 15, served on the student council and was editor of the Technique. He was selected for the Civilian Pilot Training Program while a Tech student and became a licensed pilot at 19.

“In the 1930s, Atlanta was a small town. Georgia Tech was a center of activity. Social events were newsworthy. When a Tech fraternity held its big annual dance, that was considered fodder for the society page. I discovered that the Atlanta Constitution would pay for reports; I became their stringer for Tech social events. I wrote up major dances, listing who escorted whom, what band played, which ballroom was the scene, etc. When the item appeared, I clipped it from the paper. Every Saturday I took my clips to the newspaper’s pay window and collected
several cents per word,” he writes in *A Bad Case of Old Age*.

In the fall of 1937 Conway organized the 10-piece band The Technicians, which started getting gigs that previously would have gone to the Ramblers, a group that broke up when its members graduated.

“This was the peak of the big band era,” he writes. “Swing was the thing. Over several years I put together a library of nearly 200 arrangements. Some were oldies left behind by the Ramblers. Most were newer ones by Glenn Miller, Count Basie, the Dorseys and many other big names. I got these via a local pawnshop operator who had New York connections. We paid only $2 or $3 per arrangement.

“We tried to tone it down when playing for afternoon tea dances in small rooms, but our main menu was made up of loud and rambunctious renditions — the kind that were favored by the jitterbuggers at the dances held in the Tech gym on Saturday nights after football games.

“One O’Clock Jump and In the Mood were all-time favorites. Popular ballads included Stardust, Night and Day, Deep Purple and Once in a While. Among more exotic numbers were Caravan or Indian Love Call. We tried to avoid such corny material as Beer Barrel Polka, but sometimes had to yield to requests by sponsors,” he writes, recalling that the band played at such venues as the Biltmore Ballroom, Fox Theatre, Dinkler-Plaza Hotel and East Lake, Brookhaven and Druid Hills country clubs.

“There was also a profitable side venture. Charlie McKinnon, who was my partner as business manager of the *Technique*, and I sponsored dances in the gym after home football games. We rented the gym, hired my band and paid a couple of freshmen to carry a sign around the track at halftime announcing the dance, which would be open to all for 50 cents a head. It worked. We had big crowds.”

Conway escorted future wife Becky Kellam to her Gamma Phi Delta prom. Conway considered staying with the band following graduation in 1941. “However, I looked closely at some of the professional band operations in existence, and I didn’t like what I saw,” he writes.

“Musicians of ordinary talent fell into a rut and never realized their dreams. Only those with spectacular talent rose to stardom."
I knew I didn’t have that talent,” he says. Instead, he landed a job as a junior aeronautical engineer at the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics laboratory at Langley Field, Va., married Becky in 1942 and was transferred to the Ames lab in California in 1944.

“In 1954 I launched Industrial Development, a national business magazine devoted to economic geography, corporate facility planning and area development. It caught on right away. It had taken about five years to find a niche — tough times for the family as well as the business,” he confides in his book.

“Next year I made a deal to buy the long-established Manufacturers Record magazine, which had been published in Baltimore since 1883. The negotiations were held in the bar of the famous Algonquin Hotel in New York. The deal was laid out on a paper napkin.”

He bought a single-engine Cessna 170 in the 1950s, when he, his wife and two daughters began their worldwide adventures in a series of airplanes. Conway kept all his log books, and the trips — and photos — are chronicled in his memoir. He says the scariest moment happened in South America, when he was flying his family along the Amazon River in their twin-engine Aero Commander.

“When we got to the Tefe area, there were heavy thunderstorms covering the strip. Landing was impossible. Our only choice was to continue toward Manaus and hope we wouldn’t run out of gas. By the time we were within about 30 miles of Manaus both fuel gauges were showing empty — the worst crisis of my flying career,” he writes.

“It appeared almost certain that we would not make it to Manaus. Our best option would be to land in the river and hope we could survive. I had everybody don their life jackets and went over the procedure for getting out of the airplane. Then I got on the radio and called ‘Mayday’ for the first time in my life. Repeated calls brought no answer from the Manaus tower or any other aircraft.

“Soon we could see the taller buildings of Manaus on the horizon. Both gas gauges rested against the E peg. There was no jiggling to indicate anything whatsoever in the tanks. I held our altitude, thinking that when the engines quit I would glide toward the town.

“By what seemed a miracle, we got as far as the airport traffic pattern, where I saw a Brazilian military patrol plane lining up on final approach to land in front of us. Without hesitation, I cut in front of him — it was that close — and landed. … When the ramp crew refilled our 155-gallon tanks, it took a little more than 150 gallons. We were that close to disaster.”

As he nears the conclusion of the book, Conway writes of the decision to ground himself.

“It was a decision I knew I had to make but still was one of the most painful of my life. I know pilots are not immortal. Sooner or later we all have to stop flying. By 2003 I had logged more than 7,000 hours as pilot-in-command. I was a proud member of the UFOs (United Flying Octogenarians) and had a plaque from the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association honoring my 60 years as a member. I had a good record — no FAA violations, no accidents and no injuries to crew or passengers.

“However, Becky was having an increasingly difficult time getting into and out of the tightly cramped cockpit of our airplane. She urged me to take trips without her, but I refused, knowing there would be no joys in that. After thinking it over and over, I faced up to the realization that the time had come for me to give up a way of life that had meant so much.

“So I quit cold turkey. I have not set foot in an airplane since. Even now, several years later, I dream about just one more flying expedition. That’s all it is — a dream.”

— Kimberly Link-Wills
1950s

**Benjamin S. Persons**, CE 50, of Atlanta, has been reappointed to the state board of registration for professional geologists by Gov. Sonny Perdue. A consulting civil engineer and geologist, Persons is a fellow with the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Geological Society of America and a member and subject matter expert of the Council of Geologic Examiners and Association of State Boards of Geology. He and his wife, Frances, have three children and five grandchildren.

**Bill Whitworth**, IM 51, wrote a mystery novel titled *Butterfly Girl*, published by Land of the Sky Books. Whitworth was a training executive with Southern Bell before owning and operating a purebred polled hereford business. He later began acting, landing a recurring role as Goody Tate on the TV series *In the Heat of the Night* and the part of Jackknife Jack in the 2007 film *Ghost Town The Movie*. Whitworth lives in Waynesville, N.C., with his wife, Christine, and cat, Priscilla.

1960s

**Gary M. Cooper**, M CP 61, of Birmingham, Ala., was inducted into the American Institute of Certified Planners’ College of Fellows in April. During his 50-year career, Cooper crafted one of Alabama’s first greenway plans; reshaped development standards after Hurricane Frederic struck Gulf Shores, Ala., in 1979; and contributed to Alabama’s first industrial heritage plan. Cooper also created state and regional planning agencies in Alabama, North Carolina and South Carolina.

**Don P. Giddens**, AE 63, MS AE 65, PhD AE 66, dean of the Georgia Tech College of Engineering, has been elected by the membership of the American Society of Civil Engineers to serve as president-elect for 2010-11. He will assume the role of president next year.

**J.E. “Eddie” Hicks**, IE 63, MS IM 68, completed a two-year term as chairman of the board of the Worldwide Vending Association. He is the owner and CEO of Prestige Services Inc., near Albany, N.Y., and a past chairman of the National Automatic Merchandising Association, which named him Industry Person of the Year.

**George Thomas “Tom” Humphrey III**, AE 64, retired from Raytheon after completing a simulation project on airborne mine countermeasures for the Navy. In his 35 years in the training simulation field, he was instrumental in developing flight simulators and training equipment for NASA and the Department of Defense. Humphrey joined Raytheon in 2000 to work on the development of the astronaut training facility for the International Space Station. He and wife Mary Beth recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary.

**Lawrence W. Olinger**, MS SanE 68, was awarded the Harold Williams Award for Professional Excellence from Dewberry. Olinger is president of federal services for Dewberry. Olinger is a longtime member of the Association of State Floodplain Managers and currently serves on its foundation advisory board. He also is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Society of American Military Engineers and American Water Resources Association.

**Willis J. Potts Jr.**, IE 69, was elected by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents to serve a one-year term as the board’s chair through June 30, 2011.

1970s

**Andrew R. “Andy” Chambers**, CE 75, of Fayetteville, Ga., has been reappointed to the state construction industry licensing board by Gov. Sonny Perdue. Chambers, who is the vice president of Gallagher Electric and Engineering Co., has been a member of the board since 1998. Chambers and his wife, Jeanne, have two children.

**Thomas D. Gambino**, CE 79, president of Prime Engineering Inc., joined U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke as one of 10 U.S. business leaders on the first cabinet-level trade mission of the Obama administration. The delegation visited Jakarta, Indonesia, in May to explore op-
opportunities to meet Indonesia’s growing demand for clean energy technologies.

**Guy Gober**, ISyE 75, completed a bicycle ride from Savannah, Ga., to San Diego to raise money for medical scholarships and prostate cancer research. Gober’s son Redding joined him on the 2,500-mile trip. More information is available at prostatecancerawarenessride.synthasite.com. Gober has a urology practice in a renovated 120-year-old farmhouse in Tiger, Ga. He is an Army colonel who has deployed to Iraq twice to serve in combat support hospitals.

**H. Scott Kroell Jr.**, IE 72, of Midway, Ga., has been appointed to the state board of nursing home administrators by Gov. Sonny Perdue. Kroell is the CEO of Liberty Regional Medical Center in Hinesville. He is a fellow at the American College of Healthcare Executives; a member of the Liberty County Board of Health; and a board member for The Heritage Bank. He and his wife, Diane, have two children.

**Robert Paul Sherwood Sr.**, ChE 74, received a master of divinity degree from Columbia Theological Seminary in May 2009 and joined Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church in Augusta, Ga., as associate pastor in January.

**William L. Snowden**, M CP 77, was inducted into the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Certified Planners. He currently is the director of planning and economic development for the city of Tuscaloosa, Ala. Snowden previously served as planning director and later as assistant city manager of Albany, Ga.

### 1980s

**Carine Scarborough Bullock**, ME 85, has been named regional plant general manager of Florida Power & Light’s newest power plant, the West County Energy Center in Loxahatchee, Fla. She lives in Palm City with her husband, Douglas.

**David Deiters**, IM 82, has been promoted to co-president of global consulting firm North Highland. Deiters previously led North Highland’s flagship Atlanta office.

**Jeffrey Hankin**, EE 89, was elected to the Sparling board of directors at the annual meeting of shareholders. Hankin is vice president of market development and principal of the San Diego office. He joined Sparling in 1990 and became a shareholder in 1994. He was named a principal in 1999 and vice president this year.

**Tom Hendricks**, ChE 84, has been named vice president at Fluor Corp. He is responsible for the Southeast Asia operations of the manufacturing and life sciences business segment. Hendricks, a registered professional engineer with an MBA from Clemson, has worked for Fluor for 22 years.

**Raymond King**, Mgt 87, became president and CEO of Zoo Atlanta June 1. He replaced fellow Tech alumnus Dennis Kelly, ME 76, who left earlier this year to head the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. King spent the last 22 years working at SunTrust, most recently as the senior vice president for community affairs. He has chaired six nonprofit boards in recent years: Research Atlanta, Theatre in the Square, Committee for a Better Atlanta, Regional Business Coalition, Metropolitan Atlanta Arts and Culture Coalition and the Fernbank Museum of Natural History. King recently led an $8 million fundraising effort to rebuild the children’s spaces at Fernbank. In 2009, King was presented the Chairman’s Award from the United Way.

**Pete McCarthy**, Text 81, is semiretired and now in a second career as a math and entrepreneurship teacher. In September, he will be moving from Andover, Mass., to Melbourne Australia, with his wife, Sandy, and two of their three children for a two-year sabbatical. While there, Sandy will be running Asia Pacific business for Mercer Retirement, and McCarthy “will rent surfboards on the beach.”

**Carole McFee**, Text 85, was promoted to director of quality assurance of the VF Corp.’s jeanswear coalition. McFee, who recently celebrated her 10-year anniversary with VF Corp., will have responsibility for quality assurance functions in Greensboro, N.C., and Monterey, Mexico.

**Gregory Tarasidis**, AE 87, an otolaryngologist in Greenwood, S.C., was installed as the
149th president of the South Carolina Medical Association in May. He is chairman of South Carolina Physician Assurance Co. and the outpatient surgery center at Self Regional Healthcare and a South Carolina alternate delegate to the American Medical Association. Tarasidis received a medical degree from Emory University’s School of Medicine. He and his wife, Jamie, AE 87, MS AE 88, have two children, Anna and John.

1990s

**Desi Bellamy**, CmpE 95, returned to Atlanta and started Ink2net.com, for which he is CEO. Ink2net.com provides a messaging service that allows people to share, discuss and buy off-line content from magazines. Bellamy, a 1999 graduate of Harvard Business School, started Destiny Information Technologies while a freshman at Georgia Tech.

**Danielle Phillips Davis**, IntA 97, MS IntA 99, and her husband, Chad, announce the birth of son Harrison Clarke Davis on Nov. 30. Harrison joins siblings Hadley Kate, 2, and Thatcher, 4, at the family’s home in Leesburg, Va.

**Melissa Jones Efferth**, Mgt 99, of Alpharetta, Ga., announces the birth of a son, Walker Benham Efferth, on Dec. 11. Efferth is a full-time mother.

**Amy Billups Engel**, Mgt 98, and her husband, Nate, announce the birth of a son, Max Carter, on April 28. Engel is a corporate marketing manager for the U.S. Golf Association in Far Hills, N.J.

**Jancie S. Hatcher**, MS Chem 90, recently received a doctor of pharmacy degree from Mercer University and has accepted a position as staff pharmacist for Ingles Pharmacy in Cleveland, Ga.

**Cayman Percy James**, CE 99, MS EnvE 01, and Daniel James, EE 00, announce the birth of son Riley William on Feb. 19. Riley joins his brother, Ethan Rex, 2, at the family’s home in Peachtree Corners, Ga. Cayman works part time with CH2M HILL as an environmental engineer, and Danny is a contractor with AT&T’s operations and services development.


**Scott Machovec**, ME 97, was promoted to senior mechanical engineer by Southern Company Services. He is in the design engineering department at the National Carbon Capture Center in Wilsonville, Ala., operated by Southern Company for the Department of Energy.

**Colleen Varley McCann**, IE 99, of San Francisco, completed an MBA in May at the University of California, Berkeley, with a focus on marketing and strategy. She works in inventory strategy for Gap Inc.

**Nick Melitas**, AE 97, has been promoted to avionics engineering manager at Northrop Grumman in Melbourne, Fla.

2000s

**Christopher Argote**, AE 09, is working at Georgia Tech’s Aerospace Systems Design Laboratory while he pursues a master’s degree. During the summer break, Argote is working in Indianapolis for Rolls-Royce. The company awarded Argote a graduate fellowship. Argote attended Georgia Tech with help from a scholarship from the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering Inc.

**Kristine Lawrie Williams**, CE 99, MS CE 00, and her husband, Kristian, announce the birth of daughter Samantha Violette on March 17. Williams, a professional environmental engineer, works for Providence. She and her husband will celebrate their two-year wedding anniversary Oct. 18.

**Christy Richards Wright**, ABiol 99, and Greg Wright, CS 00, MBA MoT 09, announce the birth of sons Bradley and Bennett on April 12. The twins joined siblings Anna Claire, 3, and William, 5, at the family’s home in Marietta, Ga.
Katie Dieterman, Mgt 08, Psy 08, married Dino Sammarco, AE 06, Mgt 06, on June 5. Dieterman is a human capital analyst with Deloitte Consulting in Atlanta, and Sammarco is a senior consultant at Radiant Systems in Alpharetta. The couple live in Atlanta.

Robert Dunton, MS ME 08, was promoted to chief information officer at Tully Rinckey PLLC. Dunton is responsible for overseeing and developing the firm’s IT infrastructure and website and supporting the firm’s ongoing growth initiatives. Dunton previously was a marketing associate for the firm.

Will Eidson, Mgt 04, completed his first Half Ironman triathlon, 70.3 miles, in May. He swam 1.2 miles and biked 56 miles before running a half marathon. Eidson, an attorney with Thompson & Knight LLP, lives in Dallas with his wife, Melanie Murray Eidson, ID 05, who works in commercial real estate for Stream Realty Partners LP.

Jennifer Yu Hardy, AE 04, and her husband, Brent, will celebrate the first birthday of their son, Luke Dylan, on July 22. Six weeks after their son’s birth, the couple moved back to Atlanta from St. Louis, where Hardy was a systems engineer at Boeing working on the F-15 Singapore Simulator.

Emily Hein, MS BC 08, announces the birth of her son, Westen Paul Hein-Warren, on Feb. 24. The family lives in California.

Eileen Hitchens, IE 01, MS HS 02, and her husband, Shawn Symonds, announce the birth of son Dean Michael on Nov. 25. Hitchens, who graduated from residency in June, works as an emergency medicine physician in Charlotte, N.C.

Alicia Hodler Hurley, CE 00, and Adam Hurley, CE 00, announce the birth of daughter Bridget Faye on March 26. Alicia is a project manager for Brasfield & Gorrie. Adam is a foundation manager for Berkel & Company. The family lives in Marietta, Ga.

Daniel James, EE 00, and his wife, Cayman Percy James, CE 99, MS EnvE 01, announce the birth of son Riley William on Feb. 19. Riley joins brother Ethan Rex, 2, at the family’s home in Peachtree Corners, Ga. Danny is a contractor for policy and projects at the Georgia Department of Transportation.

Troy Rice, IE 01, and his wife, Tracy, announce the birth of daughter Reagan Marie Rice on March 31 in West Palm Beach, Fla. Rice is director of corporate sourcing for Florida Power & Light and a member of the Georgia Tech Alumni Association’s board of trustees.

Send Us Your News and Photos

To have your news included in the Ramblin’ Roll, send us the details at Ramblin’ Roll, 190 North Ave. N.W., Atlanta, GA 30313, or e-mail us at ramblinroll@gtaalumni.org. Photos may be submitted for inclusion in the online Ramblin’ Roll at gtaalumnimag.com.

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In Memoriam

with AT&T’s operations and services development, and Cayman works part time with CH2M HILL as an environmental engineer.

Yulong “Clark” Li, MBA 02, has joined Balentine as global investment research director. He is responsible for leading the investment team’s overall research efforts. He previously served as executive manager of the research department for the Shanghai Stock Exchange.

Robert Madayag, ChE 02, was selected as a director of the management division of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers for a two-year term. He is an attorney in the Atlanta office of Woodcock Washburn LLP and a trustee of the Georgia Tech Alumni Association.

Grace Ou, MS IDT 05, a co-founder of Rival Industries, was featured in the April issue of Digital Signage Magazine in response to Rival’s award-winning touch-screen applications Virtual Home and Mobile Games Market, which were showcased at Samsung’s inaugural Race to Innovation competition and the 2010 Digital Signage Expo in Las Vegas.

Ravi Puri, MS MoT 00, has been appointed a vice president of the global consulting firm North Highland. Puri leads North Highland’s CIO Services & Supply Chain Management practice. Puri previously held leadership positions at IBM and Deloitte.

Christina Sewall Sherstad, Mgt 01, and Brandon Sherstad, IE 99, announce the birth of a daughter, Harmony Grace, on Dec. 31. After eight years working in the Georgia Tech Office of the Dean of Students, Christina is a full-time mother. Brandon is a senior manager for Ernst & Young. The family lives in Fayetteville, Ga.

Jofe Weese, MS IDT 05, a co-founder of Rival Industries, was featured in the April issue of Digital Signage Magazine in response to Rival’s award-winning touch-screen applications Virtual Home and Mobile Games Market, which were showcased at Samsung’s inaugural Race to Innovation competition and the 2010 Digital Signage Expo in Las Vegas.

Greg Wright, CS 00, MBA MoT 09, and his wife, Christy Richards Wright, ABiol 99, announce the birth of twin sons Bradley and Bennett on April 12. They joined sister Anna Claire, 3, and brother William, 5, at the family’s home in Marietta, Ga.

1930s

William D. Evans Jr., IM 38, of Winston-Salem, N.C., on May 10. He worked for many years with Crawford & Company in Raleigh and later was vice president of safety for Carolina Casualty Insurance Co. in Jacksonville, Fla. He was a major in the Army during World War II.

1940s

LeRoy A. Aarons, ChE 43, a resident of Falls Church, Va., on Jan. 31. He was a member of Alpha Phi Omega while at Tech and retired from the Navy.

Robert Curtis Barrett, ChE 42, a resident of Cartersville, Ga., on April 1. He was sales manager for Chemical Products Corp. in Cartersville for more than 35 years, retiring in 1987. Mr. Barrett previously worked in Venezuela for Standard Oil of Louisiana. He was a deacon and elder at his church.

Jack Cook, IM 49, of Wimberley, Texas, on April 28. Mr. Cook retired following a 37-year career with Southern Bell, at which he was a manager responsible for advancing computer automation systems. After graduating from Georgia Tech, he served in the Navy. Survivors include his son, Jack S. Cook Jr., ABiol 76.

Paul Truett Dietz, Cls 47, of Georgia, on April 24. He left Tech to enlist in the Navy and in 1944 received his wings and commission. He returned to Tech in 1949 but was called back to active duty in 1952. He transferred to the Navy Reserve in 1959 and continued flying until his retirement in 1971.

Millard R. Dusenbury, ChE 40, of Jekyll Island, Ga., on April 23. He spent 35 years working for Hercules Inc. in Wilmington, Del., and Brunswick, Ga. A member of Sigma Chi and the marching band while at Tech, he served as an Army captain during World War II, participating in the Middle East, North African and Italian campaigns, and was the commander of the German and Italian POW camp at Fort Rucker, Ala., upon his return to the United States.

William Dayton “Bill” Francis, IM 43, of Roswell, Ga., on May 4. He served in the Army and Guard Reserve before beginning a career in textile manufacturing management. An Eagle Scout, he later served as a Scout leader. He also was a Mason and a member of Knights Templar and the Roswell Rotary Club.

Jarrell Bland Goodwin Jr., GE 44, of Augusta, Ga., on June 7. Mr. Goodwin received a law degree and served in the Navy aboard the USS Riddle in World War II. He was employed by the Georgia state legal and highway departments. He was a treasurer and an elder emeritus at his church.

Harold William Harrison, EE 43, of Los Altos, Calif., on April 2. In 1962, Mr. Harrison co-founded Aerotech Industries, which specialized in semiconductor and microwave technologies pertaining to radar, telecommunications and satellite components, some of which were used in the United States’ first manned mission to the moon. The company was sold to TRW in 1974, but Mr. Harrison continued to serve as president until 1977. He later worked in operational consulting, specializing in corporate turnaround and merger situations for technology-based companies. During his career, Mr. Harrison also spent 13 years working for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, later NASA. The first real-time application of a digital computer to solve aeronautical problems was developed under his leadership. In 1957, Mr. Harrison was employed by General Electric to help in the design of the largest banking computer at the time. He also served on the national committee, which established the encoding in use today on all checks. Mr. Harrison served on the Georgia Tech Advisory Board from 1976 through 1982 and was inducted into Georgia Tech’s Engineering Hall of Fame in 1994.

W. Hugo Heidenreich Jr., IM 48, of
In Memoriam

Charles Robert Minors, EE 45, of Darien, Ga., on April 5. He worked for Georgia Power Company from 1946 to 1984, retiring as vice president of consumer affairs. He later spent several years working for the Edison Electric Institute. A Navy veteran of World War II, he served on the USS California in the Pacific.

James F. Sands, CLS 43, of Statesboro, Ga., on April 16. After retiring from the Navy as a commander, he began a second career at Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, where he researched air defense systems from 1961 to 1981. He joined the Navy as an aviation cadet in 1941 and was a fighter pilot during World War II. He also was involved in nuclear weapons training. He received a bachelor’s degree from the Naval Postgraduate School and a master’s degree in aeronautical engineering from MIT. His last Navy assignment was in weapons systems evaluation at the Pentagon from 1959 to 1961.

Monroe Jerome Smith Jr., TE 41, of Atlanta, on April 24. He was a retired manufacturer’s representative with C-R-S Inc. He was a member of Zeta Beta Tau fraternity while at Georgia Tech.

Kenneth W. Sutton, CLS 49, of Ocilla, Ga., on May 11. Mr. Sutton was the last active charter member of the Ocilla Rotary Club. Mr. Sutton served as a deacon, trustee and clerk and a member of the Steadfast Seekers Sunday school class at his church.

Franklin Duncan “Frank” Tidwell, CLS 45, of Douglasville, Ga., on May 13. Mr. Tidwell began working with Tidwell Construction Co. in 1939. He later served as its president and part owner of the firm until retiring in 1982. He then evaluated the safety and probable life spans of bridges as a consultant to the Georgia Railroad. An Army veteran of World War II, he served under Gen. George Patton in the 95th Infantry Division. Known as the “Iron Men of Metz,” the infantrymen liberated Metz, France, from German occupation. Mr. Tidwell was an avid photographer and a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

William Dawsie “Bill” Tucker, IM 43, of Gainesville, Ga., on April 21. He worked for the Georgia Association of Petroleum Retailers before moving to Florida, where he spent 22 years as executive director of the Allied Gasoline Retailers Association. He returned to Atlanta in 1977 and served in the business office of the Georgia Baptist Convention until his retirement in 1990. He was treasurer of the Emory Hills Investment Club from 1982 to 2003. He was in the Army for three years, serving in Hawaii and Saipan, and was among the first U.S. troops to occupy Japan.

James Fennell Williams, EE 49, of Atlanta, on May 26. He worked briefly as a math instructor at Georgia Tech before joining the Coca-Cola Company in 1950. He became a vice president of the company in 1965, retired in 1982 and served as a consultant until 1994. A B-25 combat bomber pilot during World War II, he received the Distinguished Flying Cross. He retired as a colonel in the Air Force Reserve and in the 1980s received the Defense Department’s Distinguished Service Medal and a Patriots Award from the United Service Organizations. He served as a national board member of the Army Reserve Association and president of the Atlanta chapter. He also was a 30-year member of the Atlanta Rotary Club.

1950s

Louie Joe Allison, Text 51, of Kingsport, Tenn., on April 11. He retired from Tennessee Eastman Co. in 1986. In his 36-year career with the company, Mr. Allison was awarded two patents for textile improvement. A World War II veteran, he served in the Army Air Forces 15th Air Force. He was a member of the American Legion and the Optimist Club. Mr. Allison also was a Scoutmaster and a longtime committee chairman of the Boy Scouts of America Sequoyah Council.

Edward Ray Beeman, IM 50, of Zephyrhills, Fla., on May 20. Mr. Beeman helped Florida Power establish its first corrosion control department and worked for the company for 28 years. He served in the Coast Guard and was stationed on Tennessee Valley Authority dams during World War II.

Roy W. Blanton Jr., MS ME 59, PhD ME 63, of LaGrange, Ga., on May 12. A certified professional engineer, Dr. Blanton worked in academics, research and consulting during his career and retired from the University of Alabama in Huntsville as a professor.

Arthur Louis Burress Jr., IM 53, a resident of Metairie, La., on May 27. Mr. Burress received a master’s degree from Tulane University and retired from Shell Oil Co.

Robert Weyman “Bob” Bussey, EE 52, a resident of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., on Feb. 16. Mr. Bussey worked for Florida Power & Light Co. for 36 years, rising from engineer to a division manager of the Southeast division before retiring from the company in 1988. After receiving his wings in 1953, Mr. Bussey served in the Army Signal Corps as a liaison pilot in Texas and Germany.

James Freddie Conner, EE 50, a resident
Honorary Alumna Jeanne Ferst Dies

Jeanne Rolfe Ferst, wife of the late Robert H. Ferst, ME 38, died May 27 at her home in Atlanta. She was 91.

Though she attended the University of Chicago, Mrs. Ferst became a proud supporter of Georgia Tech after marrying into one of the Institute’s most dedicated alumni families in 1940.

During Tech’s Capital Campaign, Mrs. Ferst made a commitment of $1 million to the Institute for the naming of the Robert Ferst Center for the Arts to honor her husband, who died in 1991. She later served on the center’s advisory board. The Ferst Center, which over the years has hosted performances by Arlo Guthrie and Penn & Teller as well as a recent campus visit by Gen. David Petraeus, is located just steps away from the winding street named for the Ferst family.

Mrs. Ferst, a retired real estate broker, was named an honorary alumna of Tech at the Alumni Association’s Gold & White Honors ceremony in 2008.

Her service off campus included chairing the Fulton County Economic Development Advisory Board and serving on the Fulton County Economic Development Corp. and the Southern Center for International Studies boards; the Georgia Higher Education Savings Plan board of directors; the Kennedy Center’s National Committee for the Performing Arts; the Commission on Presidential Scholars; and the Georgia Public Telecommunications Commission.

Mrs. Ferst five times served as a delegate to the Republican National Convention. She was a chair and member of the Georgia Republican finance committee and treasurer of the Georgia Republican Party. She also served as chair or co-chair of presidential finance committees. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported that former Georgia Rep. and Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich was scheduled to serve as a pallbearer at Mrs. Ferst’s funeral.

Memorials in her name may be made to the Georgia Tech Foundation for the Jeanne Ferst Director’s Chair in the Robert Ferst Center for the Arts.
In Memoriam

MM Systems Corp. for 35 years. After earning a master of divinity degree in the 1990s, the Rev. Driggers left his business career to serve as minister of education at Briarcliff Baptist Church in Decatur, Ga. He was involved in several Atlanta-area churches, serving as a deacon, Royal Ambassador leader, youth worker and an adult Sunday school teacher. He was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity while at Tech.

Edwin O’Rear Faulkner, IM 54, of Jackson, Ga., on May 23. He was the founder and president of Faulkner Co., a wholesale distributor of commercial HVAC and refrigeration products, and owner and president of Jo-Ness-Co Controls, an automatic controls panel engineering and manufacturing firm. Mr. Faulkner spent 10 years coaching youth sports in DeKalb and Fayette counties and served four years as the Fayette County High School athletic booster club president. He was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity while at Tech.

Forest LaVerne Fowler Jr., IM 54, of Atlanta, on April 29. In 1956, he joined the family insurance business, Forest Fowler Agency, from which he retired in 1990 after 15 years as chief operating officer. Following graduation from Tech, where he was a member of Chi Phi fraternity, Phi Eta Sigma and the Industrial Management Society, Mr. Fowler was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army and served two years at Fort Campbell, Ky., and Fort Belvoir, Va. He was a life member of the Capital City Club; founding director and second president of the Benedictts of Atlanta social club; and founding board member of New Life Center, a Christian rehabilitation ministry. He was a deacon emeritus at his church and a member of the Atlanta Kiwanis Club with 50 years of perfect attendance.

John William “Bill” Fussell, IE 57, a resident of Atlanta, on May 7. Mr. Fussell earned a master’s degree in city planning from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., while working in the real estate operations of the Postal Service. He also was a registered professional engineer. Mr. Fussell served in the Navy on the battleship Mississippi, on which he was a fleet boxing champion, and in the Merchant Marine during World War II.

James Frederick Holcomb, MS EE 58, who was a resident of Springfield, Va., on Dec. 18. He was a retired Army lieutenant colonel.

James D. Huddleston III, EE 53, MS EE 75, of Stone Mountain, Ga., on May 12. Mr. Huddleston retired as a principal engineer with Georgia Power. He began working for the company in 1951 while a co-op student at Tech. In 1969 he received the Georgia Power Engineering Association Engineer of the Year Award and in 2006 the association’s Lifetime Achievement Award. He served as a consultant to the Georgia Power corporate archives, to which he recently donated his lifetime collection of electric meters. He was a life member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

John C. Huskisson Jr., IM 51, of Savannah, Ga., on May 30. He began his advertising career with General Electric Co. in 1951, guiding the preparation of parts catalogs, instruction books and maintenance manuals for industrial and military equipment, and later worked for advertising agencies in Florida and Georgia. He was a former executive vice president of the Pigcock & Company agency in Savannah and for 15 years operated Huskisson Advertising. He was a charter member and president of the Advertising Club of Savannah, which twice awarded him its Hadley B. Cammack Award for excellence in advertising. He was awarded the Advertising Federation of America Silver Medal in 1960. Following retirement, he had a 15-year career with Publix Supermarkets. During World War II, he flew 18 combat missions as a B-26 pilot with the 9th Air Force in Europe. While a student at Georgia Tech, he was an editor of the Blueprint and a member of ANAK, Omicron Delta Kappa and the Ramblin’ Reck Club.

Marion Anderson Jones, CE 54, a resident of Atlanta, on April 21. Mr. Jones retired from Lockheed as a senior structural engineer following a lengthy career with the company. Mr. Jones received an MBA from Indiana State University.

James Byron Kemp, IM 55, of Chiefland, Fla., on April 8. In 2005, he retired as owner of Cedar Key Island Hopper Tours, a business he established in 1987. Mr. Kemp served in the Army Intelligence 111th Counter Intelligence Corps from 1955 through 1957 and received a law degree from Atlanta Law School in 1964. He co-founded and operated Kemp Realty in Jonesboro, Ga., from 1960 to 1976.

Wayne F. McWhortor, ChE 51, a resident of Louisville, Ky., on May 30. He served in the Army Air Forces during World War II and retired from Celanese Chemical Corp. as a chemical engineer.

Robert Lewis “Bob” Morris, ME 59, a resident of Atlanta, on April 4. A professional engineer, member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and licensed instrument-rated pilot, Mr. Morris solved engineering problems for a variety of national firms through a business he started in 1967. While a student at Georgia Tech, Mr. Morris worked at the Engineering Experiment Station. Mr. Morris, who had autism, served as a mentor to other adults with the disorder beginning in the late 1980s.

Sidney Thomas Nutting Jr., IE 50, a resident of Savannah, Ga., on May 6. Mr. Nutting was employed by Union Camp Corp., later International Paper Corp., for 43 years, retiring as vice president of unbleached papers with mills in Prattville, Ala., and Savannah. He previously served as mill superintendent of the Franklin, Va., bleached paper mill and earlier was manager of the Honeycomb Division with plants in Wisconsin, New York and New Jersey. During his career, he served as national president of the Paper Industry Management Association and as vice president of the mid-Atlantic region of the American Institute of Industrial Engineering. Mr. Nutting also served on numerous boards and councils and held both city- and state-level positions with the Chambers of Commerce in Alabama and Georgia. He served as president of the Savannah and Franklin, Va., Rotary clubs and as a director of the Montgomery, Ala., club. A Navy veteran of World War II, Mr. Nutting was a member of Alpha Pi Mu and AIIE while attending Georgia Tech. He was elected to vestries and served as a senior warden at various churches over the years. Mr. Nutting’s survivors include brother-in-law J. Earl Gilbreath Jr., IE 54.

Jere G. Osmer, ME 57, of Hendersonville, N.C., on March 24. Mr. Osmer retired from Pratt & Whitney.

Tom F. Pattillo, ME 51, a resident of New Smyrna Beach, Fla., on April 8. Mr. Pattillo, a citrus and fern grower, was past president of Pattillo Fruit Sales Inc. and a past field representative of Florida Orange Marketers. Mr.
Pattillo served in both the Navy and Army.

David A. Smith, Cls 50, of Peachtree City, Ga., on Oct. 19. He was an industrial engineer with Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Co.

Joseph Edwin Tatum Jr., EE 50, AE 57, of Canyon Country, Calif., on March 25. In a career with Lockheed Aircraft, Rockwell International and Northrop Aircraft, Mr. Tatum worked on the L-1011, space shuttle, stealth bomber and stealth fighter programs. An Army captain during the Korean War, he was a past president of the Tri-Canyon Kiwanis Club and a member of the Military Order of the World Wars.

Marshall Ray Twitty Jr., IE 58, of Manchester, Ga., on May 20. An Army veteran of the Korean War, he was a retired civil engineer with Raytheon. He was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity while at Tech.

Richard Dugger Vaughan, CE 51, of Ormond Beach, Fla., on May 28. He served in the Army during World War II and in 1951 began a career in environmental engineering with the U.S. Public Health Service, rising to assistant surgeon general with the rank of rear admiral before retiring in 1971. He then was an executive with ITT Palm Coast. He received master’s degrees in civil engineering and public health from the University of Michigan and was a diplomate of the American Academy of Environmental Engineering and chair of the city of Ormond Beach environmental advisory board. He enjoyed performing in musicals and served as president of Civic Music and the Daytona Playhouse and as a member of Seaside Music Theater’s advisory board.

James Walker III, Text 56, of Amelia Island, Fla., on May 11. Mr. Walker held various positions in the textile industry in Georgia, Florida, Ohio, New York and North Carolina and eventually purchased his own company, North American Rayon Corp. He sold the company to its employees in 1985.

Homer Watkins Jr., ChE 50, of High Point, N.C., on April 6. Mr. Watkins retired from Burlington Industries in 1989 after a 39-year career as a cost accountant with the company. A graduate of the Georgia Military Academy, he stood guard at the 1939 Atlanta premiere of Gone With the Wind while a cadet at the academy. He served in the Army with the 406 Anti-tank Division in the 102nd Infantry during World War II.

Sam L. Wohar, ME 52, of Alpharetta, Ga., on May 2. Mr. Wohar worked for Lockheed before joining Player and Company in 1971. He retired from the company in 1998 as chairman and CEO. Mr. Wohar served in the Army and attended Georgia Tech on the GI Bill. He was a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, National Society of Engineers, National Certified Pipe Welding Bureau and Atlanta Rotary Club.

1960s

Rutledge M. Beacham, Cls 68, of Atlanta, on April 6. Mr. Beacham spent the last 32 years of his commercial real estate career working for the Atlanta-based firm Carter, ultimately overseeing more than 2.7 million square feet of

Yellow Jackets, NFL Veteran Nick Rogers

Former Georgia Tech football star and NFL player Nick Rogers, Mgt 03, died May 3 in a single-vehicle accident in College Park, Ga., when his car hit a utility pole. He was 30 years old.

Mr. Rogers, a two-year starter at defensive end at Tech, earned second-team All-ACC honors in the 2000 and 2001 seasons. In his player profile on the Georgia Tech Athletic Association Web site, he was noted as “one of the best all-around athletes on the team with excellent speed, strength and agility.”

In 2002, he was drafted by the Minnesota Vikings in the sixth round and moved to linebacker. In four years in the NFL, he also played for the Green Bay Packers, Indianapolis Colts and Miami Dolphins. He last played for the Colorado Crush in the Arena Football League in 2008.

Following his football career, Mr. Rogers opened a barbershop and renovated homes, Sean Gregory, a friend and former Tech running back, told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Nicholas Quixote Rogers was a native of East Point and a graduate of St. Pius X High School, where he lettered in football, basketball and track.

He was not the only member of the Rogers family to wear the white and gold. Survivors include his brother, Phillip, Mgt 99, a former Yellow Jackets running back, and his sister Dana, Mgt 05, a former member of the track team.
In Memoriam

Douglas Grey Outlaw, CE 66, MS CE 67, of Tallahassee, Fla., on April 13. He worked for the Army Corps of Engineers for 22 years and for the Department of Environmental Protection for 18 years. He served in the Army Reserve for 28 years and retired as a lieutenant colonel.

Wayne M. Peavey, IM 63, a resident of Fitzgerald, Ga., on May 26. Mr. Peavey was a retired insurance adjuster for Allstate Insurance Co. He served in the Marine Corps Reserve and was a member of the Elks Club and a former member of the Jaycees.

Joseph Martin “Marty” Reynolds, MS Phys 64, MS NE 70, a resident of Atlanta, on April 2. He worked as an engineer, business development executive and contractor adviser with Sun Microsystems, ASTI, Bull and various technology companies in the Southeast. Mr. Reynolds also built computers and audio equipment, operated and maintained ham radios and restored and rode motorcycles. Last year, he took flight instruction training and flew solo.

Henry Grady Rylander Jr., PhD ME 65, a resident of Austin, Texas, on May 22. Dr. Rylander, who earned a bachelor’s and later a master’s degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Texas at Austin, was involved in the design of jet engines at the Westinghouse steam division before returning to Austin in 1947 and beginning a 50-year career teaching in UT’s department of mechanical engineering. He served as chairman of the department from 1976 to 1986 and was one of the founders of the Center for Electromechanics. Dr. Rylander, who researched tribology and machine design, published more than 100 technical articles and wrote or edited three books.

Guillermo Velasco Jr., TE 60, a resident of Norcross, Ga., on April 16. Mr. Velasco was a founding member of the Bolivian Association of Atlanta.

Charles Leroy Windham Jr., IM 63, of Decatur, Ga., on May 22. A member of the football team and president of Sigma Chi fraternity at Tech, Mr. Windham served as a lieutenant junior grade in the Navy and spent his career in chemical sales. He was a member of the Masonic Temple in Atlanta.

Charles Polke Yeomans, IM 60, of Morehead City, N.C., on May 28. Mr. Yeomans, who earned a master’s degree in accounting from Georgia State University, established World Imports of Fayetteville and Shore Decor in Morehead City.

1970s

James Everette Arnold, EE 77, of Rixeyville, Va., on June 3, following a swimming accident off the coast of Emerald Isle, N.C. Mr. Arnold received a master’s degree in electrical engineering from MIT and served as director of the advanced systems and technology division of the National Reconnaissance Office.

Earl Stanley “Stan” Bean Jr., Text 72, of Atlanta, on May 26, from a heart attack. He retired as president of Uniblend Spinners in New York. He began his career in textiles as a supervisor with Milliken in Greenville, S.C., then worked in sales management with Fiber Industries in Charlotte, N.C., and New York. A member of Beta Theta Pi at Tech, Mr. Bean entered the Institute as a civil engineering major in 1963. His studies were interrupted by service in the Army as a chief warrant officer and Cobra attack helicopter pilot. Mr. Bean served an extended tour of duty in Vietnam with the 101st Airborne Division, receiving a Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

Will Chamberlin, IM 74, of Watkinsville, Ga., on April 9. Mr. Chamberlin was an industrial engineer for Reliance Electric for 20 years. In 1989, he and a friend started Classic Race Services, a company that facilitates road races throughout the Southeast. He served on the Sandy Creek Nature Center board and was a choir member and elder at his church.

James E. Delk III, APhyS 76, of Atlanta, on May 15. Mr. Delk spent his career in nuclear energy. He obtained the rank of Eagle Scout.

Christopher Lee Feucht, IE 72, of Chesapeake, Va., on April 17. After leading short-term medical teams in needy areas across the globe, Dr. Feucht became director of missions at New Life Christian Fellowship’s family of churches in 1998 and for 12 years mobilized missionaries and mission teams in ministry efforts. He received a doctorate of medicine from the Medical College of Georgia. In the 1970s, he and his wife spent three months serv-
ing at a mission hospital in Tanzania. His family moved to Chesapeake in 1994 to work at Operation Blessing with the Flying Hospital.

John Michael McClure, MS IM 76, of Marietta, Ga., on May 11. A veteran of the Army National Guard, he retired following a 33-year career with Georgia Power and the Southern Company. He also was a graduate of the University of Georgia.

James Patrick Mellin, MS EE 72, of Bloomington, Minn., on Oct. 27. A retired lieutenant colonel, he served as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam and received the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism. He was a 1958 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy.

Clyde Patrick Molloy, ME 70, of El Paso, Texas, on May 28, of cancer. He served 15 years of active duty in the Army and seven years in the Army Reserve in a variety of staff and command positions with operational troop units in Air Defense Artillery and Field Artillery, retiring with the rank of lieutenant colonel. He then worked for Hughes Aircraft from 1985 to 1995 as a senior member of the technical staff and with Raytheon as a principal systems engineer from 1995 until earlier this year. He was a Boy Scout pack and troop leader and a recipient of the Silver Beaver Award.

Richard E. Schier, IM 71, of Chattanooga, Tenn., on April 21. He worked for Unum Provident for 29 years, retiring in 2001. He was a member of the Order of Charlemagne and the Chattanooga chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society and a senior warden at his church. Mr. Schier played guitar and was an avid bird photographer.

Laird Wadsworth Shull Jr., IM 74, of Las Vegas, on May 31, from cancer. A member of Kappa Sigma fraternity while a student at Georgia Tech, Mr. Shull worked for Eastern Airlines from 1965 to 1990 and then spent 15 years with Northwest Airlines before retiring in 2006. Mr. Shull’s hobbies included gardening, bowling and playing tournament blackjack and poker.

1980s

Albert E. “Burt” Edwards, MS EE 80, of Arnold, Md., on April 16. He worked for many years as an executive director of AT&T Government Solutions in Columbia, Md. He received his bachelor’s degree in engineering from Stevens Institute in Hoboken, N.J., and enjoyed skydiving.

William George Lunsford, TChem 80, of Atlanta, on May 30, from complications of colon cancer. A textile chemist, he was the vice president of product development for Denim North America, located in Columbus, Ga. Mr. Lunsford, who traveled around the world to inspect jeans and fabrics and spot fashion trends, had visited all 50 states and more than 60 countries. Earlier this year, Denim North America honored Mr. Lunsford by naming the company’s development center for him. He joined the company in 2002 after working for various textile companies. Mr. Lunsford earned a master’s degree in textile chemistry from North Carolina State University. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported that guests attending an open house in Mr. Lunsford’s memory were asked to dress in denim.

1990s

Randall Y. Grimes, PhD ME 97, a resident of Atlanta, on May 18, from complications of pulmonary hypertension. Dr. Grimes was a partner at WellStar Cardiovascular Medicine PC in Marietta. Dr. Grimes earned bachelor’s degrees in molecular biology and physics from the University of Georgia and a medical degree from the Emory University School of Medicine and received the American College of Cardiology Young Investigator Award while completing a three-year fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. While at the hospital, he had advanced training in transesophageal echocardiography. In 1999, Dr. Grimes received a faculty appointment to Harvard University in the echocardiography division of MGH. Dr. Grimes was board certified in internal medicine and cardiology. Dr. Grimes was a fellow of the American College of Cardiology and held a patent for devices and methods for percutaneous mitral valve repair. Dr. Grimes also participated in the Ironman triathlon nine times and was a marathon runner and master division swimmer.

Kenneth Andrew Yousten, Arch 91, a resident of Fabius, N.Y., on March 26, from complications of Friedreich’s ataxia.

2000s

Charles J. Whittington, CS 05, of Fort Campbell, Ky., on March 27, 2009. He worked for a software firm in Alpharetta before enlisting in the Army in September 2006. He later was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the field artillery and assigned to the 320th Field Artillery, 101st Airborne Division already deployed to Iraq, where in January 2008 he was assigned to train the Iraqi army in and around Tikrit. He later was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 32nd Cavalry and worked as a fire support officer. The unit redeployed to Fort Campbell in late 2008. First Lt. Whittington’s survivors include father Terry Whittington, IM 73.

Friends

H. Roy Carroll, 93, of Seneca, S.C., on March 10. An avid Georgia Tech fan, he was the former owner of Carroll’s Union 76 Station. He was in the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Thomas K. Hamall, 77, of Peachtree City, Ga., on April 29. Before serving as director of university partnerships at Georgia Tech, Mr. Hamall was executive vice president of the Metro Atlanta Chamber from 1974 to 1983, during which time he was a leader in race relations and international trade. With Mr. Hamall at its helm, the chamber welcomed its first African-American member and first two African-American chairmen. Mr. Hamall’s survivors include daughter Claire Moyer, IM 86, and son Kenneth Hamall, ME 95, MS ME 97.

Paul H. Nichols Jr., 88, of Atlanta, on May 19. Dr. Nichols graduated from Emory Dental School; served in the Navy Dental Corps in World War II and the Korean War; and practiced dentistry in Toccoa, Ga., for 40 years. A longtime fan of Georgia Tech sports, Nichols paid $1 in 1933 to attend a Tech football game, his first college football game. Memorials in his name may be made to the Alexander-Tharpe Fund.

Naron Damar Searcy, 70, of Eufaula, Ala., on June 8. Mr. Searcy had a 33-year career with the federal government and later worked for Georgia Tech, retiring as assistant director of auditing. Mr. Searcy, a singer and guitar player, would volunteer to do taxes for senior citizens and to lead sing-alongs and teach square dancing to disabled children and adults.
Leading by Example

Captain of 1990 championship now directing weight-loss campaign

By Van Jensen

When Jerimiah McClary walked onto the Georgia Tech campus as a student, the promising freshman defensive lineman from Lawrenceville, Ga., weighed a trim 230 pounds.

Four years later, through a regimen of lifting and eating, he’d bulked up to nearly 300. His massive frame broke through the interior of one offensive line after another as the Yellow Jackets claimed the 1990 national championship with McClary as team captain.

“In school, I would burn 9,000 calories a day,” said McClary, Mgt ’91. “There’s nothing to deprogram guys at the NCAA level. They’re giving you all the food, and the coaches are yelling at you to gain weight. There’s a challenge there. If you fail to [adopt healthy eating habits] at that age, you’re probably not going to do it the rest of your life.”

McClary, who didn’t play professional football, never changed his eating even as he stopped burning so many calories. He was busy with work, including stints at Coca-Cola and the Ford Motor Company.

A healthy lifestyle became even more difficult to maintain following the death of his mother, Johnnie Mae Harrington, in 2006.

“I have nine brothers and sisters,” McClary said. “My mother had to cook a lot for us. She just said, ‘If I’m cooking this much already, I’ll just make it a business.’”

Harrington started J & L Catering in Lawrenceville. It featured the country cooking that traced back to the family’s roots in Buggtown, a rural former slave community in Gwinnett County that was home to only a handful of families.

After Harrington’s death, McClary and a brother partnered to take over the business, which is now called Flavors Catering & Events Services.

“It’s almost like a conflict of interest,” he said. “You have to sample the food, but you don’t want to go overboard.”

Yet, at 42, with the 20th anniversary of the title looming [See page 96.], McClary realized his weight had grown into a problem. The scales tilted at 485 pounds.

He and his wife, Nicole, had begun talking about having children, and he worried about how his weight might challenge him as a father.

“I couldn’t imagine running after a 4-year-old,” he said. “The body starts turning against you. When your knees and ankles start to go, then you can’t exercise. It’s a vicious cycle.”

McClary had tried losing weight before, but diets never worked for him. He decided to try Healthe Trim, a diet pill that includes green tea leaf extract.

Shortly after beginning his effort, McClary was listening to Atlanta radio station Q100 when he heard it was running a three-month weight-loss challenge sponsored by Healthe Trim. He applied and was selected for the challenge.

McClary’s efforts were recorded in a blog on the station’s Web site.

“As the days on the calendar continue to fall off, I am happy to report so have the pounds,” he wrote. “This has been a trying month for me — at the start of the month I twisted an ankle, and the pace in which I was progressing has slowed considerably.

“However, I am pleased to report that I have not fallen off of the wagon. I have made the transition to a ‘lifestyle’ approach on my eating habits. What that means to me is … at each and every meal I stop to consider what’s in the dish and how it will impact me and my goals.”

He had been taking in 6,000 calories a day and cut that to 2,100. He was feeling miserable at first and described it to a friend who had quit smoking. McClary’s friend said it sounded like his body was undergoing withdrawal.

McClary also enjoyed once again feeling like he was part of a team. He and the seven other participants encouraged each other.

“With this group, we had a common cause,” he said. “As an athlete, you have a team. But then you’re on your own, and that...
accountability is lost. This is like getting ready for fall football and two-a-day practices.”

McClary also had the support of his former teammates. He said most of the 1990 team had reunited on Facebook. Looking back on the championship, he said what he held most clearly in mind were the friendships he’d made and kept through the years.

While reconnecting, McClary discovered he was far from the only former player experiencing weight problems. The same challenge of switching from a life of constant exercise to a more normal existence was adding to their waistlines as well. One had even passed away from weight-related health problems, McClary said. As the captain, he decided to lead the way.

At the end of three months, an early-morning weigh-in at the Q100 studios revealed that McClary had lost 50 pounds. While it’s no small accomplishment, McClary made it clear he wasn’t satisfied. “I was hoping it to be more,” he said. “But 50 pounds in three months, that’s stellar.”

McClary is hoping to lose at least another 50 pounds before the team holds a reunion during this football season. “I’d be happy to report at my playing weight,” he joked.

McClary also plans to help teach others what he’s learned. As a pastor at New Vision Praise and Worship Center in Lawrenceville, he’s been working with congregants on changing to healthier lifestyles.

“Our responsibility is to take care of ourselves,” he said. “You can’t go out and witness to people if you can’t go out. Jesus sent his disciples out walking. They had to walk everywhere!”

McClary also wants to help current college athletes transition to their post-playing days. He plans to call the program Heaven Can Weight. “Once I lose enough weight, that’s something I want to go back and start,” he said. “I think that would carry a lot of weight — no pun intended.”

Down 50 pounds, Jerimiah McClary hopes to lose another 50 before Tech’s 1990 championship football team reunites during the upcoming season.
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2010 GEORGIA TECH FOOTBALL

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2009 ACC CHAMPIONS
Jackets Dominate Spring Season

By Van Jensen

In the busy spring sports season, Georgia Tech racked up team and individual accomplishments both on and off the field.

Though Tech didn’t add any championships this year, five teams did make it deep into NCAA tournaments.

It also was announced that five Tech teams — baseball, golf, volleyball and men’s and women’s cross country — had placed in the top 10 percent in the NCAA’s academic progress report scores.

Overall, the Institute’s APR scores improved for the third consecutive year.

“We’re very happy and proud of the five teams recognized for their work in the classroom,” director of Athletics Dan Radakovich said. “It’s a tribute to those student athletes, coaches and staff members.”

Baseball

The Yellow Jackets had a dominant season, claiming 47 wins and, at one point, the No. 2 ranking.

But in the NCAA regional played at Russ Chandler Stadium, Georgia Tech came up a few runs short, losing 10-8 to Alabama to end hopes of a College World Series appearance.

Tech’s pitching staff was led by ace Deck McGuire. The junior compiled nine wins and was selected 11th overall in the Major League Baseball draft by the Toronto Blue Jays. Nine other players were selected in later rounds of the draft.

Those selected were seniors Tony Plagman and Andrew Robinson and juniors Derek Dietrich, Cole Leonida, Thomas Nichols, Chase Burnette, Kevin Jacob and Jeff Rowland.

McGuire was named a Louisville Slugger All-American along with first baseman Plagman, who finished the season with 21 home runs.

Softball

The softball squad had one of its most successful seasons, winning 51 games before falling to Oregon in an NCAA regional tournament at Tech’s Mewborn Field.

The Yellow Jackets were led by standout senior second baseman Jen Yee and freshman pitcher Hope Rush, both of whom were named Louisville Slugger/National
Sport Briefs

1990 Championship Team Reuniting

It’s been 20 years since the Georgia Tech football team claimed the Institute’s fourth national championship by capping off an 11-0-1 record with a win over Nebraska in the Florida Citrus Bowl.

A season-long celebration of the anniversary will culminate with players, coaches and staff from that team returning to campus in November.

The team will have a private gathering at Hotel Palomar on Nov. 12 before attending the Nov. 13 game against Miami at Bobby Dodd Stadium. The 1990 squad will lead the current team on the march down Yellow Jacket Alley before kickoff.

Tech started off the 1990 season unranked before claiming five straight wins. After a tie against North Carolina, the Yellow Jackets reeled off another six consecutive wins.

“It takes a special group of guys to win a national championship the way we did, and it created an eternal bond,” said Marlon Williams, Mgt 94, who played on the 1990 team. “I’m really looking forward to being in the presence of such classy and courageous teammates again. I am certain the fellowship will be unforgettable and the reunion a huge success.”

Women’s Crew Takes Dad Vail Silver

On a final day of racing marred with high winds, the Georgia Tech women’s varsity crew team claimed a silver medal at the Aberdeen Dad Vail Regatta.

Competing on the Schuylkill River near Philadelphia in May, the lightweight eight crew came in second. The team beat third-place SUNY-Buffalo, an NCAA Division 1 team, by .016 second.

Tech had two men’s teams place sixth in the lightweight four and novice lightweight eight categories.

Curry Inducted into Atlanta Hall

On June 12, former Georgia Tech football coach Bill Curry, IM 65, was enshrined in the Atlanta Sports Hall of Fame.

Curry, now the coach of Georgia State’s new football team, also played at Tech and had a 10-year NFL career. Curry is the author of Ten Men You Meet in the Huddle: Lessons from a Football Life and is a former ESPN analyst.

Bracken’s Hardships Inspire Book

When Sam Bracken first went to a football camp, his mother sent him with an orange duffel bag. Through years of hardships and homelessness, that bag was a constant in his life.

Bracken, IM 86, a former football star at Tech, describes his journey in a new book, My Orange Duffel Bag. The book describes the abuse he went through as a child and his struggle to overcome those experiences.

Bracken writes glowingly of former Tech football coach Bill Curry and credits Curry with helping him off of the field.

Bracken now lives in the Rocky Mountains with his wife, Kim, and four children. A portion of the proceeds from his book will go to the Orange Duffel Bag Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to at-risk and homeless children.
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Student send-offs are being hosted by Georgia Tech Clubs across the country, including Washington, D.C., on July 24; Sarasota, Fla., and Phoenix on Aug. 7; Tampa, Fla., and Las Vegas on Aug. 8; and Douglasville, Ga., on Aug. 14. gtalumni.org/pages/studentsendoff

Flicks on Fifth outdoor film series in Technology Square continues with screenings of *The Hurt Locker* on July 7, *Fantastic Mr. Fox* on July 14 and *Hot Tub Time Machine* on July 21. flickson5th.gatech.edu

Meet the President during G. P. “Bud” Peterson’s tour of Georgia July 12-16. gtalumni.org/pages/meetthepresident
August

Alaska’s Inside Passage is the destination of an eight-day Alumni Travel tour that embarks from Juneau Aug. 6. gtalumni.org/tours

Summer commencement for the awarding of bachelor’s, master’s and PhD degrees will be held at 7 p.m. Aug. 6 in Alexander Memorial Coliseum. commencement.gatech.edu

Classes for the 2010-11 school year commence Aug. 23.
In the summer of 1970, I read an article in the Atlanta Constitution about draft legislation in both the Georgia and Florida assemblies to provide funding for 4-foot-wide bicycle lanes on key routes. Georgia’s then-Gov. Lester Maddox was well known for his support of cycling and for his press stunt of riding his fat-tired cruiser inside the Capitol rotunda as he sat backward on the handlebars.

That year I stayed in Atlanta after my sophomore year at Georgia Tech to earn some cash rather than go home to south central Florida. The intermittent odd jobs that I struggled to string together left me with time on my hands, some of which I spent at my fraternity house with the guys attending summer session. As I read the article, I thought about what a great idea it was, and I wanted to do something to help. Cycling, which had given me my first real sense of freedom and mobility, had always been a joy to me, and my nascent political activism was looking for purposeful outlet.

A fraternity brother, Ron Currens, suggested we go to the Capitol the next Wednesday, “People’s Day,” to see the governor. As Maddox made his way along the line greeting visitors, Ron and I stepped up to introduce ourselves. When the governor shook my hand, I told him that if he would write a letter to Florida Gov. Claude Kirk supporting the bicycle lane set-aside legislation, I’d deliver it by bicycle.

Still clasping my hand, he looked me straight in the eye for a split second, and then, with a grin, told both of us to wait in his office, that he wanted to speak to us with his press secretary.

Fast-forward a week to July 31, 1970, and I’m back in the Capitol rotunda, now being interviewed by Atlanta’s major radio, TV and print media outlets as I prepared to take the governor’s letter to Tallahassee. The owner of a local bike shop had provided me a 10-speed Schwinn road bike, along with a pump, patch kit, spare tube and one folded spare tire. In the rear deck bag I had an extra pair of cut-off jeans, two pair of socks and underwear, a couple of tie-dyed T-shirts and a blue bandana for a headband. I strapped a big, clunky FM radio over the handlebar bag that held my canteen and $40 the guys at the fraternity had collected.

Maddox, on his handlebars, and I rode our bikes around the Capitol for the press. We shook hands, I flipped down my Ray-Ban Aviators and I was off, riding away from downtown at exactly noon.

The first night I made it to Thomaston, where I stopped at the police station to ask where I might find a safe place to camp. Recognizing me from the day’s news, they invited me in for a shower, a meal and a bed in an air-conditioned cell. They had a good time taking “mug shots” and a picture of me and my bike in front of the entire night shift.

The governor’s office had alerted the state patrol of my planned route to Tallahassee, so occasionally a blue-and-gray cruiser would come alongside and the officer would ask from beneath his brim, “You that boy carrying the letter from the governor down to Tallahassee?” “Yes, sir.”

“You need anything?” “Well, I could use some more water.” I once replied, whereupon the officer stopped and produced a gallon jug from his trunk and refilled my canteen.

I asked an elderly gentleman sitting on his porch somewhere along Georgia’s old Highway 3 if I might fill my canteen from his yard hydrant. As I did, he recognized me from the story that had run two days earlier in his local paper and invited me to “come
sit on the porch and rest a bit,” out of the August heat. I did, gratefully.

Owners of several restaurants in small towns gave me lunch or dinner when I told them what I was doing. I stayed half price in a small motel after my longest day of riding, pulling up well after dark and thankful just to be off the road. One afternoon I stopped for a quick swim in a pond adjacent to the highway, just taking off my shoes and socks and slipping into the cool water. And one morning I crested a hill just as the sun was breaking above the trees, gliding along several miles afterward just simply enjoying the ride.

The trip did have its tense moments. I was run off the road several times, suffering minor cuts and bruises and a sprained ankle; hit in the back by one of numerous beer bottles and cans thrown at me; and regularly scared witless by tractor trailers passing too close and too fast as I hugged perilously close to the edge of the asphalt.

When I reached Tallahassee on the fourth day out, a local TV station filmed my approach up the hill in traffic along Appalachee Parkway to Florida’s Capitol as I arrived to deliver the letter to Gov. Kirk’s office. (He wasn’t in at the time.) Two days later, I set off again, finally arriving at my home in Lake Placid four days later, after logging a total of just over 600 miles.

When I returned to Tech that fall, the Georgia parks department invited me to speak of my adventure at a number of events in support of the proposed legislation.

Ultimately the bill passed in both states, and soon new bike lanes with their distinctive markings began to appear along highways, giving cyclists a little more room and showing them a little more courtesy.

The next summer, while I was out with some fraternity brothers one weekend in early July 1971, a drunk driver ran a red light at 70 miles per hour and plowed straight into the right side of the car in which I sat in the back seat, leaving me with, among other internal injuries, a massive concussion, a broken jaw and left cheekbone, and a right leg broken so badly that the doctors considered amputating it.

After six weeks in traction, much of it with my jaw wired shut from two major operations to repair the damage, I left the hospital more than 60 pounds lighter, with a boot-to-hip metal brace holding my right leg in alignment.

I managed to get back into school that fall, taking a minimum full-time load. Tech registrar Frank Roper helped me schedule at least an hour between classes to give me time to poke across campus with a cane.

Months later, when I could walk unaided again, I got a bike to help in my rehabilitation. I still remember my first tentative turns on the cranks with knees stiff from inaction and how good it felt to be free again.

I’ll be 60 in the fall of this year, 2010, the 40th anniversary of my adventure, and cycling is still a passion. Even now, I get a joyous rush when I first clip into the pedals and make the first few turns.

I’m 30 years, 30 pounds and four knee operations past being anything like competitive, but at least I’m out there hammering away at it in charity rides. Even now, I struggle with the aftereffects of that accident in 1971.

Cycling has evolved significantly in the past couple of decades with major improvements in equipment, clothing and safety gear. Interest in the sport continues to grow. Thankfully, so does the respect generally afforded to cyclists on the road.

It was nice to play a small part in helping create some safer places for all of us to ride in Georgia and Florida.

Pedal safely! See you down the road!

J. Paul Oxer, CE 73, of Smyrna, Ga., is the managing director of McDaniell, Hunter & Prince Inc., which provides transaction support and project development for investment in infrastructure.

J. Paul Oxer sealed a deal with Georgia Gov. Lester Maddox to deliver a letter supporting bike lane funding and landed in the Atlanta media spotlight.
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