Students access Stingers' arrivals with cell phones

If it is 100 degrees on a July day or 20 degrees on a January day, students at the Georgia Institute of Technology will not need to suffer the heat, cold or rain waiting for Stingers and Tech Trolleys.

They can access the arrival of the buses or trolleys from their cell phones, computers, PDAs (personal digital assistant) whichever Internet-accessible device they prefer.

Working with four business partners, Georgia Tech Parking & Transportation added a global positioning system (GPS) to its buses during spring break (testing 4 weeks & then active).

One business partner, Nextbus, controls the software.

"Nextbus is the web site," said David Williamson, assistant director, Transportation. "It's what you see."

Another partner, Transtel, added the hardware.

"Transtel manufactures what we call the vehicle location module," Williamson added. "It's the little box that sits on the bus or trolley and it captures the latitude and longitude coordinates."

Cingular Wireless is also a partner.

"The system is cellular based on the wireless network," Williamson said.

The fourth partner is Georgia Tech's Office of Information Technology (OIT) who puts it all together.

"They [the business partners] have been invaluable," Williamson said.

"I don't care what you say about this technology. It is very, very complicated because of all the communication."

Actually, the system on the trolleys and buses is called a GPRS, a general packet radio system.

The Tech Trolleys introduced the global positioning system more than a year ago (Jan. 2004), but there were gaps in the data, Williamson said.

That system was text-based

www.nextbus.com
For arrivals of:

- Tech Trolleys
- Red Stinger Route
- Blue Stinger Route
- Green Stinger Route
- Emory Shuttle

with all the same technology as cell phone text messaging.

"As folks on campus were text messaging one another and the trolleys transmitting coordinates at the same time, we determined, by working closely with Transtel, OIT and Cingular, that we were just overloading the system," Williamson said.

The GPRS is more stable and has basically eliminated the gaps.

Campus riders can track the Georgia Tech buses and trolleys in real time, verifying schedules and watching the vehicles move along their routes on-line.

Pulling his cell phone from his pocket, Williamson demonstrated by showing his bookmarked web site.

At that particular moment there were three trolleys traveling toward the Ferst and Atlantic trolley stop; one was arriving in one minute, the next in six minutes and a third in 12 minutes.

"My cell phone can track three trolleys at a time," Williamson said.

There is more to this system than presently meets the eye.

"We're adding electronic signs with LED (light-emitting diode) displays to the system too," Williamson said.

Students can expect to see signs on campus announcing the arrival of the next trolley or bus and the number of minutes it is due.

"We're working to put the first sign at the Ferst & Atlantic trolley stop," Williamson said.

Other signs will be added as logistical parameters are determined, including electrical and location needs.

The system will also provide a management tool for Parking & Transportation, helping to keep vehicles spaced evenly and data to make it a more dependable, on time system.

"It's the greatest thing since sliced bread," Williamson said, not hiding his excitement.

And, it is a team project.

"OIT, Transtel, Cingular, Nextbus, they made [this system] work."

Jazzman's Cafe: Coming to a Library near you

A food and study combo

Ever think you might be able to study a little longer if you only had something to eat?

If you answered yes to this question, then you are among the many Georgia Tech students the Library has assessed in the past two years.

"In all focus groups, as a result of feedback that students send us via the Library home page and in many informal conversations with students (and faculty as well) everyone points out the importance of great, persistently available refreshment as a critical element in the learning cycle," said Crit Stuart, associate director, administration, Library.

GT Dining is answering this need by installing Jazzman's Cafe into the Library's renovated 1st Floor East.

Jazzman's, so named because of the jazz music playing throughout the cafe, will have a high-end gourmet look, taste and feel, said Darcy Domino, marketing manager, GT Dining.

"The stereo is a Bose System and the food served there will be different than anywhere else on campus as Jazzman's has its own menu, pastries, sandwiches, salads, etc.," Domino said.

Some of the planned beverages are Starbuck's Coffee, hot and cold espresso drinks and smoothies, added Todd Schram, manager, GT Dining.

Other menu items include fresh baked muffins, biscotti, cookies and fresh sandwiches on Artisan breads.
What are the hours?

"[The hours] have not been determined at this point," said Schram. "But we will be open as long as there is a need."

Look for Jazzman's to open "some time in Fall Semester."

Depending on Library construction, Jazzman's could open as early as August.

News Bulletin

by Rosalind R. Meyers
Associate Vice President
Auxiliary Services

Spring Semester finds Auxiliary Services finishing its Family Housing complex and beginning renovation on its Folk Residence Hall.

Folk will become the third residence hall renovation with a four-pipe HVAC (heating, ventilating, air conditioning) system.

Each student's room will have its own thermostat, allowing personal control of heating and air conditioning.

Folk's renovation also consists of a complete replacement of all the support systems within the building, including the power available at each student's sleeping area.

The central core of the building is being totally reconfigured to include kitchens, lounges and updated bathroom facilities.

Guest restrooms will also be added to each floor, replacing the single guest restroom in the basement of the building.

The renovation also includes an exterior facelift to the courtyard between Folk and the Caldwell Residence Hall.

Additional lighting and a security call box will be installed along the pedestrian corridor

G. Wayne Clough, Georgia Tech President, looks at the Family Housing (Tenth & Home) apartment complex chart as Rosalind Meyers explains which buildings open first. All buildings (Buildings A, B, C, D, E, F, G) are scheduled for occupancy Fall Semester.

on the north side between the buildings.

While Health Services is not building a facility this year, it is building a four-year study with the Medical College of Georgia (MCG) on human papillomavirus.

MCG is seeking 50 Georgia Tech women to help with this possible breakthrough in cervical cancer prevention.

Interested women may contact MCG Nurse Practitioners Angela Richardson, Lynn Allmond or Dr. Daron Ferris (principal investigator) at 877-643-1414.

Auxiliary Services recently concluded its annual customer satisfaction survey.

This survey is an on-line assessment of all Auxiliary Services departments.

The Georgia Tech Office of Organizational Development manages the survey for Auxiliary Services, assuring random selection of all customers (students, faculty and staff).

Auxiliary Services uses this tool to improve and add to its programs, facilities and services.

A dental clinic and late night food options were added as a direct result of student comments on this survey.

For more news, read www.ImportantStuff.gatech.edu.

MIDTOWN COMMERCIAL PARKING RATES

Your Money
Parking Registration

Recently a student stopped by the Parking & Transportation office. His car had been towed and he had parking fines in excess of $550.

This student took a chance and lost.

He spent more than the annual parking registration on fines. Plus, there was still more than four months remaining on this year's parking permit calendar.

Some students think running the risk of parking on campus without an annual registration will cost them less money in fines than the annual permit.

With Parking enforcement traveling campus routinely, this plan is not the most economical idea nor the most time-saving.

As this student found out, getting a towed car returned takes time and money.

With Parking & Transportation beginning its fifth on-line registration April 15, it has announced its Parking Permit "Perks" on its web at www.parking.gatech.edu.

One of the perks is the Good Samaritan Notification which includes:
- Notification of vehicle lights on, windows open, doors unlocked.
- Courtesy call before towing vehicle for parking violation or emergency relocation.

In order to take advantage of this benefit, registrants must remember to update their information when they buy a new car. Updated car registration is required in order to avoid a "nonregistered vehicle" citation.

Annual registration is a good time to review car information.

Annual registrants may also register multiple cars with one permit. Should the permit holder forget to move the "hangtag" to the car being driven that day, annual permit holders may also receive one free courtesy permit per month.

For a complete list of Parking Permit Perks, visit www.parking.gatech.edu.

Getting involved with the Student Center

Adding to education outside the classroom

How can a shy high school freshman one day become president of one of the most active places at the Georgia Institute of Technology?

"It's really funny; I don't know what happened but I was really painfully shy," said Missy Durham, now a junior (third year), International Affairs student and Student Center President.

Moving from Raleigh, N.C. to Fayette County, Ga. in her freshman year of high school, Durham joined the Stars Mill High School Math Team and played the violin in the school orchestra.

She added Beta Club Secretary and Key Club Treasurer to her high school resume.

"I played hand bells at my church and mentored an elementary school student," Durham said.

By the time this once shy student decided Georgia Tech would be her home for the next several years, she wanted a break from co-curricular activities.

"I focused on making new friends and keeping my grades up," Durham said.

A member of the Freshman Experience (FE) program, Durham said she automatically gained 20 friends in FE.

"Your hall mates are your new friends," Durham said. "Then you meet their friends."

"The dining hall was our social life," she continued. "We would spend hours there during suppertime."

"The sense of community is extremely important. You feel like you belong here. You feel welcome."

One of Durham's friends joined the Student Center Programs Council and needed help with a committee.

"I don't know when I decided I needed some other commitment," Durham said.

She helped her friend with the Student Center Arts Committee and then she worked with the newly-formed Public Relations (PR) Committee. Next, she advanced to chair of the PR Committee.

"It was kind of luck that I got involved," she said.

In her reign as PR Chair, the committee conducted market research on whether to change the existing Student Center logo.

One of the questions researched was if the logo was too childish.

"Some of the results were that the logo looked like Microsoft and yes, students said it was childish, but they liked it."

"Most of the people recog-nized it," she said. "That was one of our goals, to see if people recognized it."

The results of the research?

"We didn't change anything," Durham said. "The Student Center [administration] changed the logo colors to earth tones, but the Programs Council kept it like it was."

Recognition of the logo is important, Durham added.

Changing the logo would require a massive marketing campaign to re-gain that recognition.

As president, Durham would like to see more events that bring all 10 Student Center Programs Council committees together, working collaborative-ly and using each person's talents for a common goal.

Why should students join?

Students become members of the Student Center Programs Council for a variety of reasons, Durham said.

"People join to get involved, to make friends,

SC Logo

to put an item on their resume and to further their network-ing."

Students may discover other rewards from their involvement.

"You see your work being done," Durham said. "You put a lot of work in these events and you get to go to them and enjoy them and to see students come in and enjoy them too."

"You get to reap what you sow."

Some of the projects and events involve designing flyers or stuffing mail boxes, she added.

"Writing e-mails, coordinating events, having phone conversa-tions or calling an agent, you develop skills that you may need in life," Durham said.

Committee membership is approximately two hours per week and probably five hours on the day of the event, she continued.

Chairing a committee is approximately five hours a week (three office hours, an hour for committee meetings and an hour for board meetings).

Officers normally contribute 10-15 hours per week.

"It just depends if there is an event," Durham said.

Living on campus and the close proximity to the Student Center could have given Durham extra time for her role as Student Center President and one of her goals of making new friends.

"I like that people drop in [the residence hall room] in the evening," she said. "They come in and hang out."

"You can live with a thousand of your best friends on campus and you're not going to get that if you live off campus."

"It's very easy to get involved ," said Missy Durham (junior, International Affairs), Student Center President. Students complete an on-line form for the committee of their choice at www.fun.gatech.edu/joinus.php and because events are continuous throughout the calendar year, students may join at any time.

Read www.importantstuff.gatech.edu for news, events, contests and programs.

The Buzz   3

Emerging Leaders win award!

In its third year, the Department of Housing's freshman leadership program, Emerging Leaders, won the Outstanding Student Learning Program award presented by the Georgia College Personnel Association.

"Emerging Leaders is a unique program because it actually teaches leadership development to first year students," said Kristina Clement, Emerging Leaders Program Advisor (below, center). Also pictured are (l-r) Jonathan Sharma (Aerospace Engineering), Emerging Leader '04 and assistant to the '05 program, and Juan Mojica, Emerging Leaders Graduate Assistant (graduate student, Computer Engineering). Visit www.leaders.gatech.edu.

Health Services Dental Clinic gave teeth whitening in raffle!

The Health Services Dental Clinic assisted the Georgia Tech Pre-Dental Society with a student raffle, giving away a teeth whitening. Nirav Shah (computer science) won the raffle. Pictured above with Shah is (l-r) Tracy Jackson, registered dental hygienist; Dr. Katrina S. Mitchell, dentist; and Giselle Calado, dental assistant.

For the avid readers of *The Buzz* and for new readers as well, here's this issue's contest. The 10th, 11th and 12th students to e-mail melissa.moore@aux.gatech.edu one of the Parking Permit "Perks" wins a USB memory key.

Lambda Chi Alpha wins $500!

Barnes & Noble @ Georgia Tech held its first Textbook Buyback Contest at the end of Fall Semester, giving $500 to the organization whose students sold back the highest dollar value during the one-week buyback contest period. Lambda Chi Alpha won! Presenting the check is (l-r) Jerry Maloney, director, Barnes & Noble @ Georgia Tech, to Francois Hugon (Aerospace Engineering), president, Lambda Chi Alpha.

The next Textbook Buyback Contest is May 2-6. Students write their organization name on the front of the buyback slip. The slips are tallied and the winner receives a check for $500 at the beginning of Fall Semester. Read more at www.ImportantStuff.gatech.edu.

The Buzz Winners

Students read the fall issue of *The Buzz* and won $25 Barnes & Noble gift cards when they correctly answered which new Family Housing buildings opened first and what was the earliest date these buildings would open. The correct answer was Buildings D and G opening Jan. 1. All Family Housing apartments, Buildings A, B, C, D, E, F and G, will be open for occupancy Fall Semester. The winning students are (l-r) Karan Asnani (Computer Engineering), Matthew Palo (Biomedical Engineering) and Mohit Jain (Computer Engineering).