Student Center Commons opens

Walking across campus? Take a minute and sniff the air. It’s spring and different scents sail through the atmosphere.

People near the Student Center Commons (Houston Building) will smell new aromas beginning March 15.

It could be woodfired, brick oven pizzas, sausage and pepperoni calzones, cheesesteak strombolis or fire roasted flank steak on focaccia bread.

These are only a sampling of the items offered at Pandini’s, GT Dining’s newest campus food establishment.

Open for lunch and dinner, Pandini’s is the first of six new eateries scheduled for the Georgia Tech campus, extending food options and hours.

Good food is only one of Pandini’s attractions. In the heart of the new Student Center Commons, Pandini’s is predicted to be a happening place.

“We expect students to say meet me at Pandini’s” said Todd Schram, operations manager, GT Dining. “Seating up to 100, it has a modern, trendy look that invites people to eat, talk and just have fun.”

And, there’s more to come for Georgia Tech students and customers.

Two other food establishments make their debut this fall in the Commons. Jacket’s, the one of a kind, nonalcoholic Irish-style pub, also opening for evening hours will serve “the best darn wings in town and all kinds of bar foods like cheeseburgers, fish and chips and corned beef sandwiches,” Schram said.

Also going under the construction knife, cyber.cafe will sport a facelift and a new menu. Look for cyber.cafe serving Einstein Bros. Bagels’ items this fall. For those who get hungry researching and exercising, each of these groups will welcome cafes.

Jazzman’s cafe in the library and the H₂O cafe in the Campus Recreation Center will open in the fall.

Rounding out the six new Georgia Tech restaurants is Ray’s N.Y. Pizza/ Cedars Mediterranean at Technology Square. Opening in April, this pizzeria will offer dine-in and delivery.

Jennifer’s Story

A true story of what could happen to you

Football, tailgating, having fun. It was a fall Saturday afternoon.

Jennifer enjoyed the entire day until she climbed into her Jeep Grand Cherokee, reached for her purse and couldn’t find it.

She remembered placing it in the backseat; she couldn’t image where it was.

She got out of the car and that was when she noticed the hole underneath the door lock.

She called the campus police and reported her purse stolen.

“If it makes you feel any better, it looks like a professional broke into your jeep,” said the police officer.

It didn’t. Jennifer began the arduous task of cancelling her credit cards, her automatic teller machine (ATM) card and computing the cash she had lost.

The key to this all too common occurrence is that Jennifer left her purse “in the backseat” where anyone passing by could see it.

Safety is everyone’s responsibility. Don’t let Jennifer’s story become your own.

Here are some safety tips from the Georgia Tech Police Department.

1. Secure your vehicle. Roll up the windows and lock the doors.
2. Secure your valuables. Lock up all loose change, laptops, cell phones, electronics, compact discs (CDs), books, anything you want to keep, in the trunk or glove compartment.

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Welcome to the Student Center Commons! In addition to the new restaurants (see page one), Burdell’s, the Hair Cuttery, STA Travel and College Optical all have new offices. The BuzzCard Center and cyber.cafe will also renovate and enjoy new surroundings in the summer and in the fall, respectively.

That is just part of what students can look forward to in the Commons.

Waiting for its new furniture to be delivered at the end of the semester, the Student Government Association has new offices on the first floor with other student organizations having office space on the second floor.

A stage in the middle of the Commons is ready for bands, comics, poets and entertainment from the WREK radio station that will also move its station into the Commons later this summer.

The Commons added six meeting rooms that are now available on-line for groups to reserve beginning April 1 (www.studentcenter.gatech.edu). To distinguish each of these conference and meeting rooms from one another, we named them, Piedmont, Juniper, Crescent, Cypress, Pine and Spring, after streets in the Midtown area.

Remember in most cases there are no room fees for chartered student organizations or Institute departments to use any of the Student Center meeting rooms.

For complete details on these meeting rooms including size and available seating design, go on-line to the Student Center "Reserve a Room" site (www.studentcenter.gatech.edu).

Come see the Commons! It’s your Student Center, your Commons! Enjoy!

Your Textbook Dollar

Barnes & Noble @ Georgia Tech, your campus bookstore, where a portion of every sale goes back to Georgia Tech


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

Jennifer’s Story

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If this is not possible, place them somewhere out of view.

3. Be aware of your surroundings. Be alert for any suspicious vehicles cruising the area. Be on the lookout for suspicious people looking through vehicle windows or aimlessly walking in the parking area.

4. Report suspicious activity. Notify the Campus Police immediately via emergency telephone or by dialing 404-894-2500.

5. Be prepared to give as much information as possible about the individuals and any vehicles.
A VOICE that needs to be heard

Life is about choices, big and small.

VOICE, a Wellness & Health Promotion initiative, asks us to think about choices that are often misunderstood or ignored. The program is a campus-wide initiative to prevent sexual violence in the Georgia Tech community through cultural and institutional change.

“Individuals make choices that lead to violence,” said Andy Peck, violence prevention coordinator, Health Services. “We want people to understand that sexual violence is not caused by what a woman, or any victim, does or does not do. Responsibility for sexual violence rests with the person who commits the violence.”

“This may sound obvious. Yet I think many people resist seeing sexual violence as a problem rooted in the choices that primarily men are making - not all men, of course, but a disturbing number. Instead, they blame the victim - usually a woman.”

“Studies show that the average college campus has a significant but rarely discussed problem with sexual violence,” Peck added. “We don’t believe Georgia Tech is an exception, though we’re working to make it one.”

Through a U.S. Department of Justice grant, Peck and Victim Advocacy Program Coordinator Angelique Burke work to promote VOICE’s mission. The Director of Wellness and Health Promotion, Heather Surrency, oversees the initiative.

“We want the entire Georgia Tech community to be involved with this initiative,” Peck said. “Everyone is connected to the issue - through experience, a relationship, a role in the campus community, or a combination of the three.”

“We want faculty, staff and students to become aware of the role they can play in preventing violence or supporting a victim. The opportunities for each of us to make a difference or be of service are greater than many people realize.”

How to get involved

· Visit the VOICE website (http://voice.gatech.edu) for more information.
· Attend a workshop. Trainings can be organized for groups in campus departments. VOICE tries to schedule regular opportunities for interested individuals.
· Join the Sexual Assault Task Force - a campus-wide oversight group consisting of students, staff, and faculty (contact Yvette Upton for more information, yvette.upton@vpss.gatech.edu).
· Contact Peck (andrew.peck@health.gatech.edu) or Burke (angelique.burke@health.gatech.edu) with your questions and ideas.

“Your involvement is key,” Peck said. “We’re here to provide support and information, but responsibility for the safety and health of the community belongs to all of us.”

Add to your education

Become a lifelong reader

Beginning Monday, March 15, people will notice new newspaper bins placed around campus. The Residence Hall Association (RHA) is working with other departments and student groups on campus, bringing the USA Today Readership Program to Tech.

In addition to USA Today, students can read The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal at no cost to them.

“We are trying the program for four weeks,” Andrew Howard, president, RHA said. “On the first and last days, USA Today will have surveyors on campus gathering data from students, determining if the program could be a success here.”

One element of success is simply students reading the papers.

If this four-week pilot program is determined successful, RHA is collaborating with other groups to fund the program and bring the newspapers to campus. The Readership program is designed to make newspapers available to students at no cost to the readers with funding from student and campus groups.

A program already in place at college campuses throughout the country (Duke University, Penn State, Ohio State to name a few), it is designed to encourage readership without the daily cost of buying them newspapers.

“Reading these types of newspapers becomes a habit,” said Rosalind R. Meyers, associate vice president, Auxiliary Services. “It’s a good habit that contributes to people becoming lifelong readers.”

These newspapers are part of the USA Today Readership Program. Look for newspaper bins at Brittain and Woodruff Dining Halls, the Student Center, the Commons and other sites on campus. Pick up your newspapers and begin reading today. The newspapers are available at no cost to the reader.

Make Important Stuff your home web page!

www.importantstuff.gatech.edu

Read www.importantstuff.gatech.edu for news, events, contests and programs.
**Calling all Georgia Tech Students**

Get your eyes examined!

Is it time for your annual eye examination? Are you a Georgia Tech student? Do you have $10? That is all you need to take advantage of your student health fees. At Georgia Tech, your student health fees include an annual eye examination with only a $10 co-pay.

This eye examination is a refractive exam for glasses. Contact examinations are also available at a cost of $50.

Here is what you need to do:
1. Pick up a referral form from Health Services. You must have the form to show College Optical you are eligible.
3. Manage your time. While College Optical takes patients without appointments, don’t waste your time by taking the risk that you may have to wait.
4. Get your eye examination. College Optical offers students discounted prices on contacts, prescription glasses and sunglasses. Save time and get your eye care supplies on campus.
5. Remember College Optical is located in the new Student Center Commons (the Houston Building).

As part of the Student Center Commons renovation, Burdell's shows off a new look too. Resembling an airport store, Burdell’s sells snacks including chips, candy and soft drinks as well as a sampling of items from Barnes & Noble @ Georgia Tech (Technology Square). Burdell’s has books, magazines, clothing and much more. Customers need to see for themselves the variety that is available. Win $20 to spend at Burdell's or Barnes & Noble @ Georgia Tech! The first three Georgia Tech students who e-mail melissa.moore@aux.gatech.edu with the names of the six new restaurants opening on campus win.

Have you seen the new Coca-Cola machines scattered throughout campus? Georgia Tech is the only site in the world with these interactive vending machines. Coke is piloting a program on Tech’s campus, deciding whether to introduce these vending machines elsewhere in their international marketing area. Rather than a "Coke and a smile," venders win something every time they purchase a Coke product. The prize may be as grand as 25,000 Delta Airlines sky miles or a smaller award such as watching a music video on the screen. The machines are on campus through April. In the meantime, "Enjoy a Coke and a prize!"

**Students win reading The Buzz!**

These students won the contest in the fall issue of The Buzz and won $20 gift certificates to Barnes & Noble @ Georgia Tech. Pictured are (l-r) Christine Filippone, James Barnes (graduate student, INTA), Sheng Xu (Ph.D student, industrial engineering). Not pictured Joy E. Frazier (mechanical engineering). Have you found the contest in this issue?