Additional freshmen this fall could worsen classroom space shortage

General faculty meeting also covers SACS, athletics

Dan Treadaway
Institute Communications
and Public Affairs

As an additional 200 students in this fall’s freshman class will likely put a strain on classroom space, according to a study conducted by the campus Academic Services Committee, Chair Lynn Fountain presented the committee’s findings at the Feb. 24 meeting of the General Faculty.

Fountain said Georgia Tech’s average classroom utilization rate in 2003 was 66 percent. She said that making the case for additional space could be difficult for Tech because the Board of Regents considers a minimum utilization rate of 80 percent to be in the good range. With a 66 percent rating, Fountain explained, the Regents can always argue that Tech doesn’t efficiently use its existing classroom space.

Recurring problems that keep the utilization number low include the following:

• As many as 50 percent of classes in a given semester do not adhere to the standard meeting times of Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 1 to 2 p.m. (instead of noon-1:30 p.m. or 1:30-3 p.m.) precludes the use of a classroom from noon to 1:30 p.m. and from 1:30-3 p.m.

• Some faculty and schools intentionally and artificially inflate projected enrollment in order to reserve a particular room.

• Many existing classrooms are not well designed for technology-intensive instruction. Better utilization of all classroom space would allow outdated space to be taken offline either for renovation or for use as seminar rooms or graduate student or faculty offices.

Perhaps the most pervasive problem, Fountain said, is the tendency of most faculty to schedule classes between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. “In spring 2003, 65 percent of our classes were squeezed into 44 percent of the available time,” she said.

“I do believe that we make better use of our space than the Board of Regents thinks we do,” Fountain said, “but there is room for some improvement.” The committee’s recommendations for improvements include:

• raising faculty and staff awareness of the problems caused by poor space utilization;

• encouraging faculty to teach outside the 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. timeframe, and perhaps offering first choice of room selection to those who do so;

• designating colloquia/seminar rooms to be shared among schools and colleges;

• revising testing procedures to avoid taking up large blocks of space in the middle of the day;

• either enforcing the standard schedule of Monday/Wednesday/Friday one-hour classes and Tuesday/Thursday 90-minute classes, or redesigning the way courses are scheduled; and

• giving the individuals in the colleges and schools charged with classroom scheduling the authority to make the tough decisions that balance the preferences of individual faculty with the broader needs of the Institute.

President Wayne Clough expressed appreciation to Fountain and her committee for skillfully dealing with “an aggravating, nagging problem.”

SACS Accreditation

The General Faculty also heard a presentation from Associate Provost Jack Lohmann about ongoing efforts to prepare for the Institute’s reaccreditation process with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Lohmann said various faculty and staff have been working on the reaccreditation process for 18 months, and the process won’t be completed until December 2005. The major issues currently being addressed by the SACS team are:

• demonstrating institutional effectiveness (including student learning outcomes) for all degree programs;

• ensuring the verification and maintenance of qualifications for all faculty (including part-time and visiting faculty);

• revising the虐itorial Policies.

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A national search for a successor to Lee Wilcox was capped recently with the announcement of William Schafer as Georgia Tech’s new vice president of Student Affairs.

Last week, President Wayne Clough received word that Schafer had accepted the position. He will formally join Tech in June, but has plans to visit in the interim for meetings with faculty and students.

Schafer’s current employer is the University of Texas at El Paso, where he serves as the associate vice president and dean of students. He has more than 25 years of experience in academia, working in various positions of student life from counseling to residence halls to student conduct. In addition to UTEP, he has held senior administrative positions at the Illinois Institute of Technology and the University of Denver.

Robert Fulton, 72, dies

Engineering professor and county commissioner

David Terraso
Institute Communications
and Public Affairs

Mechanical Engineering Professor and Fulton County Commissioner Robert Fulton, 72, died last week after collapsing at his home in North Fulton County. He was taken to North Fulton Regional Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead shortly after 5 a.m. on Feb. 24, according to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Fulton joined Tech in 1985 and has been active in computer-aided design (CAD) research.

“He was a very outgoing and loquacious individual,” said Ward Winer, chair of the School of Mechanical Engineering. “He was always upbeat. He will be remembered for being a good teacher, a very prolific advisor and a good role model.”

Fulton was the director of the Electronic Commerce Resource Center, a joint venture project between Tech and Clark Atlanta University. At the time of his death, he was working to develop a center of excellence in product life-cycle management, said Steven Danyliuk, professor of mechanical engineering, who worked closely with Fulton.

“If I were to summarize him, I’d have to say he truly was a gentleman and a scholar,” added Danyliuk.

Fulton’s research at Tech was focused on applications in electronic packaging as well as the aerospace and automotive fields.
Mclaughlin appointed as new GTL research director

Sandra Song Hayes
School of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Steven McLaughlin, an associate professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, has joined the Georgia Tech Lorraine (GTL) team as its new director of Research. The appointment became effective in January.

According to GTL President Hans-Phillip Lohmann, the establishment of GTL was reached between Georgia Tech, the local Lorraine authorities, and the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) to establish the GTL-CNRS Telecom Laboratory. This laboratory represents the first partnership of this kind that the CNRS has established with an American university. Last year, Georgia Tech entered into a research partnership with the Lorraine government to create the Laboratory for Acoustic:

Characterization of Advanced Materials.

McLaughlin feels that a rich potential exists for securing research support from such entities as the National Science Foundation (NSF), the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Defense.

"We have established solid partnerships with some of the most prestigious French and European universities. This gives us tremendous resources in terms of the students, faculty and facilities we can leverage in new research initiatives," he said.

McLaughlin has been on the faculty since 1996, where he is a member of the telecommunications interest group. His research interests are in communications and information theory, error control coding, coding and signal processing for magnetic/optical storage and fiber optic transmission systems, and source coding and data compression.

A past recipient of the NSF Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, McLaughlin currently serves as president-elect of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Information Theory Society and is a member of its board of governors. In 2002, he received the Friend of the Graduate Student Award from the Georgia Tech Graduate Student Government Association.

For more information...

Steven McLaughlin
users.ece.gatech.edu/~swm

Georgia Tech-Lorraine
www.georgiatech-metz.fr

For more information...

Faculty governance
www.facultysenate.gatech.edu

Academic honors for athletes

Georgia Tech led all schools with eight players named to the 2003 Atlantic Coast Conference All-Academic football team, announced by the conference office earlier this month.

Three Yellow Jackets who made first-team All-ACC on the field — free safety James Butler, tailback P.J. Daniels and defensive end Eric Henderson — also earned all-conference recognition in the classroom.

Also named to the 46-member ACC All-Academic team were wide receiver Nate Curry, tight end John Paul Foschi, punter Hal Higgins, safety Chris Reis and defensive end Gerris Wilkinson. All but seniors Foschi and Higgins return for next season.

To be eligible for the ACC All-Academic team, a player must have earned at least a 3.0 grade point average for the fall 2003 semester or have maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Faculty, cont'd from page 1

• ensuring the inclusion of part-time and visiting faculty in the evaluation process;
• ensuring the consistency and quality of training and supervision of graduate teaching assistants; and
• ensuring that all graduate teaching assistants hold a master’s degree in the appropriate teaching discipline or have earned 18 graduate semester hours in that discipline prior to being listed as an instructor of record for any course.

Following Lohmann’s presentation, Statutes Committee Chair Ron Bohlander presented a number of proposed revisions to the Faculty Handbook designed specifically to address the issues raised by the SACS reaccreditation team. The General Faculty adopted all the proposals submitted.

Athletics and Academics

Head Football Coach Chan Gailey addressed the General Faculty briefly, encouraging them to contact him with any concerns or questions related to students who play football.

“We’ve got the same agenda,” Gailey said. “We want these guys to get a great degree and have a wonderful experience at Tech.” He cited the recent signing of a top high school football player with a 1370 SAT score as an example of his program’s commitment to fostering top-notch academicians alongside top-notch athletes.

“Georgia Tech is not average,” Gailey said, “and we don’t want our football program to be average. We are trying to build a championship team that our campus and our alumni can be proud of.”

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WWW.WHISTLE.GATECH.EDU
One of Fulton’s projects was a collaborative effort with the Universities of Notre Dame, Illinois and Maryland that brings together teams of students from disciplines such as mechanical engineering, business, materials engineering and marketing to develop a product from concept to production. The project is designed to simulate the geographical and intellectual boundaries that are a part of daily life in large companies and develop data models to help people from various disciplines work together, said Suresh Sitaraman, associate professor of mechanical engineering, who worked with Fulton on the project.

“He enjoyed his work. He loved to come to work every day. He was exceptional in terms of research, teaching, and scholarship, and he did it to the last day,” said Sitaraman.

The Engineers of Greater Atlanta named Fulton Engineer of the Year in Education in 2003. He served as chair of the data management program for the American Society of Mechanical Engineers from 1985 until his death.

Fulton graduated from Auburn University in 1953 and received his doctorate from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1960. He was serving his third term as commissioner for Fulton County District 3 when he passed away. He was elected to the commission in 1995, serving North Fulton County, including the cities of Alpharetta, Roswell and Mountain Park.

“I am deeply saddened by the loss of my friend and colleague, and my thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Jackie, and his entire family,” said Karen Handel, commission chairman, in a written statement. “From his commitment to parks and greenspace to the arts, Bob made lasting contributions to our community. I will miss him. We will all miss him.”

Fulton’s commission office will remain vacant until a special election is held in July. Flags at Fulton County offices were flown at half-staff last week to honor him.

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IN BRIEF:

New library feature remembers searching history

A new feature offered through the Library and Information Center allows users to save records from the University System of Georgia’s Galileo Interconnected Libraries (GIL) catalog searches for later viewing, editing and printing.

Up to 1,000 records can be stored in the so-called “Bookbag” system. After logging in, the users may select records for review later by checking the box to the left of the bib record on the results screen. A “Save to Bookbag” button is located at the bottom of the screen. A pop-up message will alert the user when records have been saved.

Once in the Bookbag, individual items can be easily removed. The entire contents of a Bookbag can be e-mailed, downloaded or deleted. To view the contents of a Bookbag, users should click on the Bookbag link in the GIL Catalog tool bar.

For more information, e-mail kathy.tomajko@library.gatech.edu.

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Notes on Bill Schafer, Tech’s new VP of Student Affairs

Current position:
Associate Vice President and Dean of Students, University of Texas at El Paso (student body: 18,500)

Education:
Doctoral degree in higher education administration and curriculum, 1986
Master’s degree in guidance and counseling, 1977
Bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering, 1975
(All degrees from the University of Colorado at Boulder)
**C A M P U S  E V E N T S**

**Arts & Culture**

**Mar. 7**
The Pfen Center for the Arts hosts two performances of the Broadway musical comedy "Kiss Me, Kate!" at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Faculty and staff receive a 10 percent discount. For tickets, call 894-9600.

**Brown Bags/Conferences/Lectures**

**Mar. 3**
The College of Management's IMPACT Speaker Series welcomes Daniel Schacter, professor of psychology at Harvard University, on "The Seven Sins of Memory: A Cognitive Neuroscience Perspective," at 3:30 p.m. in room 250, Coon Building. For more information, e-mail ch18@psych.gatech.edu.

**Mar. 3**
The Center for the Study of Women in Science and Technology hosts a research panel focusing on "Frankenstein and Film" and featuring members of the faculty in the School of Literature, Communication and Culture, at 4 p.m. in the Clary Theater.

**Mar. 4**
The Graphics, Visualization and Usability Center's brown bag series continues with "Expanding the Horizons of Game Design," with presentations by four graduate students in Tech's Information Design and Technology program, at noon in room 152, Technology Square Research Building.

**Mar. 5**
The School of Aerospace Engineering's Lockheed Martin Avionics Integration Seminar Series welcomes Myron Kayton, principal consulting engineer for the Kayton Engineering Company, on "One Hundred Years of Aviation Electronics: Progress in Avionic Systems for Land, Air and Space," at 3 p.m. in the Clary Theater.

**Mar. 5**
The School of Economics hosts a brown bag featuring Assistant Professor Minjae Song on "Innovations and Technology Cooperation among Heterogeneous Firms in the Presence of Spillover," at noon in room 125, Habenicht Building. For more information, e-mail mauricio.iacopetta@escom.gatech.edu.

**Faculty/Staff Development**

**Mar. 2**
The Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning's IT Tuesday series hosts "Managing and Improving Students' Writing Assignments: Online Resources and Tools," at 11 a.m. For more information or to register, visit www.cett.gatech.edu.

**Miscellaneous**

**Mar. 3**
The Office of Human Resources will hold the second of two pre-retirement meetings, covering Teachers Retirement System benefits and optional supplemental retirement benefits. These meetings are designed for employees within 10 years of retirement. To register, visit www.trainsweb.gatech.edu.

**Mar. 8-12**
Spring break.

**Mar. 9**
Tech2Nite offers unique personal enrichment classes in Georgia Tech's new instructional facility, the Global Learning and Conference Center. The Spring Series examines the relationship between technology, communication, art, business and culture. Classes meet Tuesday nights from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. for six weeks. Members of the Georgia Tech community receive a special discount. For more information, visit www.pe.gatech.edu or call 385-3542.

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**CLASSIFIEDS**

**Appliances**

*Refrigerator, $140; range, $140; dish-washer, $90; over-range microwave, $90. All white, GE, excellent condition. Call Jon, 385-2395 or e-mail igetstuff@hotmail.com.*

*Nennomore electric washer and dryer. Solenoids and heating element 2.5 years old. $75/pair, you pick up. Call 404-559-8761.*

*Whirlpool washer and dryer. Still under warranty; both bought in September 2003. $500 for both. Call 385-6042 or e-mail angelo.bongiorno@physics.gatech.edu.*

**Automobiles**

*1982 Volkswagen Rabbit. Convertible, 54K miles, good shape, owner since 10K, manual, $950. Call Jon, 770-565-5242 or e-mail dhoff86@att.net.*

*1984 Toyota Corolla. Diesel, 4mpg, 161K miles, several new parts, 5-speed, manual, $950. Call Jon, 770-565-5242 or e-mail dhoff86@att.net.*


*1997 Subaru Legacy L sedan. White, 74K miles, gray interior, AWD, automatic, cassette, new tires. Runs great, fun to drive. $5,000. E-mail roger.naouyani@wse.gatech.edu.*

*1998 BMW 528i. All options including automatic, leather, premium sound with 6-CD changer, moonroof, just serviced, 88K miles, $16,000. Call 894-5098.*

**Computers**

*Dell Axim X5 (300MHz) PDA with Windows Mobile 2003, cradle, charger, extra battery, foldable keyboard, NetGear 802.11b CF card, 288MB CF card and case. $100. E-mail eric.logan@ece.gatech.edu.*

*Palm m120 with cradle/charger. Palm Bluetooth card, DataViz Desktop To Go software, and USB sync cable, $75. E-mail eric.logan@ece.gatech.edu.*

**Furniture**

*Dining table w/6 chairs, $175; crib w/mattress, $120, and much more. See photos at http://photos.yahoo.com/batagunduz. Call 770-951-8186.*

*Oak living room furniture, complete set w/ lamps, dining room table w/chairs and book shelves, $750. Call 678-232-5375 or e-mail david.gifford@gtri.gatech.edu.*

*Wrought iron coffee table and two end tables. Charcoal gray/black with some silver accent, $75. Antique footstool, burgundy needle point, 1920's, $50 firm. E-mail Nicole.Pamplin@facilities.gatech.edu or call 894-1711.*

**Real Estate/Roofmates**

*Conyers: Lake-front w/dock. 4BR/2BA house for sale at $180,000 or rent at $1,200/month. Refrigerator, washer/dryer + yard service. Only 24 miles from campus. Call 894-9274 or e-mail allison.nickman@alumni.gatech.edu.*

*2-story Victorian home for rent in Cantler Park. Fully furnished (see www.ct02.gatech.edu/home). Walk to restaurants, park/train/jool. MARTA. Available in May, $1,500/mo. + utilities. Call 404-223-6227 or e-mail jb10604@mail.gatech.edu.*

*Vacation rental in Grayton Beach, Florida. 3BR/2BA, w/2 porches, available weekly or nightly. On Gulf Coast between Panama City and Destin. E-mail hdgentry@mindspring.com or call 404-636-3146.*

*Mountain home 60 miles north of Tech. 3-4BR/2.5BA, private 1 acre of forest. Oak floors, vaulted ceilings, stone and wood accents, decks. Tour at www.estatesvc.com/residential/ benitreec3777lbeavista.htm. Listed at $395K, eager to sell. E-mail roessler@mindspring.com.*

*3BR/1BA for lease. Dining room, living room and basement. Large carport. Totally remodeled. Located in the city of Atlanta, near Collier Heights. Call 404-271-0994 or e-mail hadamt533@yahoo.com.*

**Sports/Fitness/Recreation**

*Health Rider, with timer and spot to add on weights, $75. As Doer, in the box, never opened. $50. E-mail Nicole.Pamplin@facilities.gatech.edu or call 894-1711.*

**Miscellaneous**

*Hitachi 43-inch HDTV w/stand. Excellent condition, $1,100. Call 678-252-3475 or e-mail david.gifford@gtri.gatech.edu.*

*1994 Honda Shadow, 700cc, 54K miles, well maintained, stored in garage, matching cherry red helmet included. $1,000. Call 770-617-0815.*

*Gibson RB250 Masterson 5-string banjo, excellent condition, beautiful tone, $1,500. Call Dave, 770-491-6395.*

*Wanted: dirt bike or trail bike, year does not matter. Call Daniel at 770-565-3542 or e-mail dhoff86@att.net.*

*Wedding veil. White, edged with diamonds, paid $200, will sell for $100. Call 894-1711 or e-mail Nicole.Pamplin@facilities.gatech.edu.*

Ads will run for a maximum of three weeks in the order in which they are received. The Whistle reserves the right to edit ads longer than 30 words.