Regents name new University System chancellor

Retired industry executive hailed as ‘a proven leader’

Michael Hagearty
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

The former executive of a Midwestern utility holding corporation has been named Chancellor-elect of the University System of Georgia.

In a special meeting held last week, the Board of Regents voted unanimously to select Erroll Davis as the System’s 11th chancellor.

He succeeds Thomas Meredith, who resigned the post in September to accept a position as Mississippi’s chancellor.

Davis will oversee Georgia’s 35-campus public University System, which enrolls nearly 250,000 students. He will assume the chancellor’s position in early 2006.

When the search was initiated, Board of Regents Chairman Timothy Shelnut said he wanted to have the position filled in time for the University System’s annual budget negotiations at the beginning of the next legislative session. At a press conference announcing the appointment, he praised the selection.

“Erroll Davis has the perfect combination of business acumen and people skills required to be successful in the chancellor’s post,” he said.

“He is a proven leader — both in business and higher education circles — and we are looking forward to the fresh perspective and energy he will bring to this role.”

A Pittsburgh native, Davis earned a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering, a master’s degree in business from the University of Chicago. He retired this summer as the chief executive officer of Alliant Energy Corporation, a multibillion-dollar utility holding company based in Madison, Wis. His higher education experience includes serving as a member of the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents from 1987-1994, and as a former chairman of the board of trustees of Carnegie Mellon University.

He presently serves as a member of the board of Trustees of the University of Chicago.

Davis and his wife, Elaine, established the Davis Family Foundation, which makes annual grants to numerous students in need. He is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including recognition as one of the “75 Most Powerful Blacks in Corporate America” by Black Enterprise magazine.

President Wayne Clough, who was a member of the selection committee, said he was looking forward to working with Davis.

“I am pleased with this appointment,” he said. “Mr. Davis was educated as an electrical engineer, held a number of leadership positions in private industry that involved complex organizations, and served on the boards of three top ranked universities. He brings the talents and skills needed to guide our University System through the challenging days ahead.”

Name: Erroll B. Davis Jr.
Age: 61
Prior occupation: Chairman, Alliant Energy Corp.
Degree: Bachelor’s in electrical engineering, Carnegie Mellon University; master’s in business administration, University of Chicago
Member: U.S. Olympic Committee Board, University of Chicago Board of Trustees, Union Pacific Corp.
Board of Directors

For more information...
University System of Georgia
www.usg.edu

Aerospace celebrates 75th anniversary

Smithsonian Air and Space Museum Historian John Anderson describes the different paths taken by aviation pioneers Samuel Pierpont Langley and Orville and Wilbur Wright to be the first to design, construct and pilot a flying machine. His visit was part of a celebration marking the 75th anniversary of the Guggenheim Foundation grant that established Georgia Tech’s School of Aerospace Engineering.

Despite Langley’s scientific background and funding from the federal government, he said, it was the Wright brothers — two bicycle mechanics without high school diplomas — that were “the first true aeronautical engineers” because “they understood that a working flying machine was a system, and all aspects needed to function properly for the system to succeed.”

Research center to assess health impact of Beltline development

Matt Nagel
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

The Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development (CQGRD) has received a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant to do a Health Impact Assessment of the proposed Atlanta Beltline. The study will research the relationship between health and the built environment and policies surrounding the proposed Beltline project.

“The Beltline would convert a most-ly abandoned railroad that encircles downtown Atlanta into a transit corridor and multi-use trail connected to an expanded city park system and targeted areas for redevelopment,” said Ross. “It is a great partnership that will try to answer the question, ‘what are the impacts of the built environment on human health?’”

“‘To my knowledge this is the first health study of this type,’” said Ross. “‘I don’t think there has been a health impact study of a major transportation project in the United States.’”

The CQGRD is partnering with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other health officials and agencies to do the study.

“It is a study that they couldn’t do on their own and neither could we,” said Ross. “It is a great partnership that will try to answer the question, ‘what are the impacts of the built environment on human health?’ using our expertise in built environments and their expertise in health.”

The Health Impact Assessment is the first Beltline project to go through the Center, and Ross believes it makes sense to link the two subjects.

Study continued, page 2
Management, athletics benefit from Zelnak’s philanthropy

Dan Treadaway
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

A luminous Stephen Zelnak Jr., who graduated from Georgia Tech in 1969 with a degree in industrial management, has made a seven-figure commitment for the College’s new home at Technology Square. Now we learn of Steve Zelnak’s generous commitment to establish the Dean’s Chair in Management. Steve’s wonderful expression of philanthropy, coupled with the College’s growing reputation and constantly improving rankings, will allow us to recruit the finest candidates available during our search for a new Management dean.

For his part, Zelnak says the College of Management’s achievements speak for themselves. “Georgia Tech has an excellent business school, and it’s getting better every day,” Zelnak says. “When it comes to teaching students how to be successful leaders in today’s highly complex, technological business settings, the College of Management is among the best in the country. My hope is that the Dean’s Chair will go a long way toward attracting a new leader who will take the College to even greater heights.”

New life for the Freshman Gym

In addition to the College of Management, Zelnak’s other passion at Tech is athletics, particularly basketball. A pressing need for the basketball team in recent years has been securing quality practice space. “When you’re competing at this level, the pressures on these young student-athletes are considerable,” said Men’s Basketball Head Coach Paul Hewitt. “Having practice facilities of the highest quality means our players have the best resources we can offer to help them improve and refine their skills year-round and get the most out of their abilities.”

The current basketball practice facility, the Freshman Gym adjacent to Alexander Memorial Coliseum, has been in need of renovation for some time. Planning has begun on a renovation project that will modernize and expand the Freshman Gym.

An avid basketball fan, Zelnak felt the Freshman Gym renovation was the ideal project to receive his support. “Our basketball players and coaching staff have worked so hard to achieve remarkable success over the past few years,” said Zelnak. “They deserve the absolute finest when it comes to their practice facilities, and I am pleased to be a part of making that happen.”

“On behalf of our players and staff, I want to thank Steve Zelnak for his generosity,” said Hewitt. “We’re very fortunate to have devoted supporters like Steve who understand our mission and strive to give the fullest the academic and athletic experience we can offer our student-athletes.”

Campus procedures for hazardous weather in effect

In order to respond to inclement weather situations as they arise, the Hazardous Weather and Emergency Conditions Plan — whose purpose is to set forth policies, procedures, lines of responsibility, authority and communications necessary to effect a rapid and orderly process for canceling classes, delaying campus openings, or closing the campus — will incorporate all available technologies to disseminate information about any changes in status.

Weather or other emergency situations may make it necessary for Tech to declare either “classes cancelled” or “campus closed” conditions. Other declarations may include “classes canceled until time” or “classes closed” condition is in effect, no employees are to report to work, except those otherwise instructed by a supervisor. Other support employees may also be instructed not to report to work at the discretion of the administrator responsible for each major division.

Study, cont’d from page 1 of development and health. “We are interested because we’re focused on how development issues like this impact the quality of life in the city. This project has the potential to impact the economic footprint of the city as well as impact the daily lives of the people who live here.”

The research is expected to provide an economic impact assessment project. She believes that the Center and its partners will make an effective team and will be able to do a comprehensive analysis of the Beltline project.

“People are looking at several aspects of the Beltline. In particular, in relation to the transportation options and alternatives, what is the likelihood of public use and how will they all relate to health outcomes?”

The study will also investigate air quality issues, the viability of using the transit for work commuting, and what health facilities are in the area, how the green space will be used in each park and other issues.

The assessment should take 12 to 14 months to complete.
New formation process yields tougher body armor

Jane Sanders
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

Boron carbide is the Defense Department’s material of choice for body armor. It is the third hardest material on earth, yet it’s extremely lightweight. But it has an Achilles heel that piqued the interest of Professor of Materials Science and Engineering Robert Speyer five years ago.

Recently, Speyer developed a process that increases the hardness and improves the ballistic performance of the material used by the U.S. military for body armor. The researcher’s start-up company, Verco Materials, is commercializing the technology.

He knew that the boron carbide powder used to form the armor had a reputation for poor performance during sintering—a high-temperature process in which particles consolidate, without melting, to eliminate pores between them in the solid state. Poor sintering yields a more porous material that fractures more easily—not a good thing for a soldier depending on it to stop a bullet.

Determined to understand the sintering problem, Speyer built an instrument called a differential dilatometer to measure the expansion and contraction of materials during sintering heat treatments to temperatures as high as 4,300 degrees Fahrenheit.

From his observations, Speyer and his research team created a new boron carbide formation process based on mathematical control of thermal and atmospheric conditions during sintering. The method yields higher relative densities—and thus better ballistic performance—than currently available boron carbide armor. Here, Speyer holds a prototype thigh plate.

Military applications—body armor, in particular—would be the first target market, and its potential is promising. Speyer noted. The U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center at Natick, Mass., has conducted ballistic testing on a small boron carbide disk provided by Verco. Detailed results are classified, but the Army says they are encouraging. With a grant from the center, the company will produce 6-by-6-inch plates for more comprehensive military ballistic testing within the next few months.

To make such products, Speyer formed Verco Materials under the advisory support of Georgia Tech’s VentureLab, which helps faculty members commercialize their research. A Georgia Tech patent on Speyer’s sintering process for boron carbide is pending, and when granted, Verco will have access to an exclusive license.

Awards & Honors

Assist Professor Andrei Fedorov (Mechanical Engineering) has received the 2006 Brian T. von Turkovich Outstanding Young Manufacturing Engineer Award from the Society of Manufacturing Engineers.

Four faculty members from the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering are IEEE Fellows: Professor Ye (Geoffrey) Li, Professor and Chair Gary Nay, Professor Steven McLaughlin and Professor Madhavan Swaminathan.

Professor Jeff Wu (Industrial and Systems Engineering) is the recipient of the 2005 Jerome Sacks Award for Outstanding Cross-Disciplinary Research, sponsored by the National Institute of Statistical Sciences.

Professor Jeff Wu and Assistant Professor Roshan Joseph Vengazhiyil (Mechanical Engineering) are recipients of the 2006 Outstanding Young Manufacturing Engineer Award from the Society of Manufacturing Engineers.

Assistant Professor Stuart Goldberg (Modern Languages), Professor David Goldsman (Industrial and Systems Engineering) and Associate Professor Pei-Ling Wang (International Affairs) have been named awardees of Fulbright Scholar grants, and will spend up to 10 months at participating universities in Russia, Turkey and South Korea, respectively. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, the grants are one of the widest international exchange programs in existence.

Professor Carol Colatrella (Literature, Communication and Culture) has been selected as a Fulbright New Century Scholar—one of 31 academics and professionals collaborating for the 2005-2006 year on the topic, “Higher Education in the 21st Century: Global Challenge and National Response.”

Assistant Professor William King (Mechanical Engineering) has received the 2006 Outstanding Young Manufacturing Engineer Award from the Society of Manufacturing Engineers.

IN BRIEF:

Tavares to direct FCDS

Monique Tavares has been selected as the director of the newly reorganized Office of Faculty Career Development Services (FCDS). In addition to supporting faculty personnel actions, FCDS will engage in setting and interpreting faculty-related policies and will partner with other campus units to provide professional support, career guidance, development opportunities and work/life balance programs to faculty employees.

In addition to in-state charities, several organizations providing relief to residents in the Gulf Coast region have been added this year.

“We want to give everyone the opportunity to help out,” she said.

To make a secure donation online, visit www.techworks.gatech.edu. For questions, e-mail monique.schneider@finaid.gatech.edu.

Astronomy resource cited for excellence

Last week, the Library and Information Center’s presentation “A Photographic Atlas of Selected Regions of The Milky Way” was selected to receive the Griffith Observatory Star Award for excellence in promoting astronomy to the public through the World Wide Web. It is currently online at www.library.gatech.edu/barnard.

Jackets headed to Bay City

Earning its ninth consecutive bowl berth, Georgia Tech will play in the Emerald Bowl in San Francisco, where the Yellow Jackets will face Utah. The fourth annual Emerald Bowl is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 29 at 4:30 p.m. The game will be nationally televised on ESPN.

The Yellow Jackets enter the game with the nation’s best winning percentage in bowl games among teams with 20 or more bowl appearances. Tech is 22-11 (.667) in bowl games, ahead of Southern California, (28-15, .652) and Penn State (23-12-2, .649). The Jackets’ 22 bowl victories rank sixth all-time.
Art & Culture

Jan. 14

The Perist Center for the Arts welcomes the Heilidin Opera for an 8 p.m. performance of “Die Fledermaus.” For tickets and information, call 894-9600 or visit www.peristcenter.org.

Jan. 21

The American Museum of Papermaking hosts a workshop on “Basics of Japanese Papermaking,” from noon - 3 p.m. For more information, visit www.ipst.gatech.edu/amp. To register, call 894-5726.

Brown Bags/Conferences/Lectures

Dec. 13

The NanoTech volunteer group will be meeting in room 102 of MIRC, starting at noon. The featured speaker will be of Chemistry and Biochemistry Associate Professor Andrew Lyon, discussing “Bioreponsive Materials from Microgels and Nanoparticles.” For more information, visit grover.mirc.gatech.edu.

Dec. 14

Ivan Allen College’s program in Information Design and Technology hosts a demo day — featuring a diverse body of work, including projects from interactive narrative, tangible media, experimental games, augmented reality, interactive television and digital film, from 4-7 p.m. in the Wesley New Media Center.

Jan. 12

The Office of Organizational Development hosts a brown bag featuring Georgia Tech Living History Program Director Marilyn Sommers for “More Colorful Tales of Tech’s Legends, Heroes and Reprobates.” To register, visit www.trainswb.gatech.edu.

Faculty/Staff Development

Jan. 11

The Office of Organizational Development offers a short course, “Promote Yourself,” from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in room 308, Savant Building. To register, visit www.trainswb.gatech.edu.

Jan. 19

The Office of Sponsored Programs offers a two-hour workshop on “78B1 Budgets,” beginning at 10 a.m. To register, call 894-6044 or e-mail nadia.zitman@osp.gatech.edu.

Miscellaneous

Dec. 12-17

The Georgia Tech Bookstore will hold its annual campus appreciation sale, featuring a 20 percent discount for all faculty, staff and students on general merchandise, trade books, school supplies, music and DVDs. For more information, visit www.bksstore.com/gatech or call 894-2515.

Dec. 14

Each faculty and spouse/guest is invited to the Georgia Tech Faculty Women’s Club Holiday Wine and Cheese Party, from 5-7 p.m. in the Alumni Faculty House. For more information, call Enas Bazara at 404-931-9922.

Dec. 17

Fall commencement, with undergraduate keynote address by Mayor Shirley Franklin, at 9 a.m. in Alexander Memorial Coliseum. Graduate ceremony to follow at 3 p.m. For detailed information, visit www.gatech.edu/commencement.

Dec. 19

Deadline to submit applications to the annual Georgia Tech Best Practices Challenge. For information on criteria, awards and entry forms, call 894-1065 or visit www.argdev.gatech.edu/bp.

Dec. 20

A representative from Fidelity Investments will be on campus conducting one-on-one financial counseling sessions. To schedule an appointment, call 860-392-4677, ext. 303 or e-mail jefl.juday@fmr.com.

Dec. 26-30

Campus closed for winter break.

Jan. 9

Spring semester classes begin.

E-mail calendar events to editor@cgpa.gatech.edu.

Classifieds

AUTOMOBILES

1986 Porsche 928S, Black, excellent condition, 280 HP, 20-valve, 8-cylinder engine, automatic with sunroof, leather interior. Picture available. Asking price $10,000. E-mail delores.nogradi@gtri.gatech.edu or call 770-528-7773.

2004 Mini Cooper S with 29,800 miles. Premium package, leather, climate control, Harmon Kardon sound, xenon headlight/s washers, sunroof, dynamic stability control, free scheduled maintenance to 50,000 miles. Reduced to $19,450. E-mail cindy.million@dopp.gatech.edu.

2005 Chevrolet Cavalier, excellent condition, black exterior/ tan interior, four-door, CD player, 26,114 miles, $14,900. Call 404-202-4345.

FURNITURE

Macy’s sofabed, queen-size with matress, superb condition, asking $500. Email lbarnett1123@yahoo.com.

Mattress Firm futons mattress for sale with cover, paid $127, sell for $75. Call 770-235-5650 or e-mail barnett1123@yahoo.com.

Dora the Explorer toddler bed. Mattress still has original cover. Excellent condition. Will bring to campus. $50. Call 404-7688.

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