Construction crowds Fifth Street as sewer, bridge projects move forward

Michael Hagearty
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

As state contractors remove ribbons of concrete along the Fifth Street bridge, another infrastructure project near Technology Square is about to begin.

Mayor Shirley Franklin, Atlanta City Council member Debi Starnes and Department of Watershed Management Commissioner Rob Hunter joined in a groundbreaking ceremony near the Georgia Tech hotel on Jan. 21 to kick off the Spring Street Water Main Replacement project.

The project, which involves replacing several decaying, cast iron water mains on Spring Street between Third and Sixth streets and on Third, Fourth and Fifth streets between Spring Street and the interstate, is scheduled to begin this week.

According to Frank Lamia, the project manager in Facilities assigned to act as the liaison between Georgia Tech and the government, the project will tie up two lanes of traffic on the east side of Spring Street. Crews will progress block-by-block, beginning at the intersection of Fifth and Spring Streets, and finishing at Third Street. Southbound traffic will be re-routed to Peachtree Street to the east or to Techwood Drive to the west. Vehicular traffic around the site can expect delays in the coming months.

“It’s going to be messy for a while, but it needs to be done,” Lamia said. Meanwhile, crews at the Fifth Street bridge are in the midst of a demolition phase, working at night to remove the concrete between the steel support beams, followed by the beams themselves. When completed, the bridge will have wider sidewalks and roughly 125 feet of elevated green space to block out views and dampen the noise of the interstate below.

New book seeks student views and political engagement

David Terraso
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

Anyone who thinks college students are apathetic about politics hasn’t met Georgia Tech student Alexandra Pajak. A published author at the age of 23, the first-year student is among the best contributors to the new book, “What We Think: Young Voters Speak Out.”

Released last October, the 288-page book is a collection of essays, poems and photographs written by 18- to 24-year-olds from near-ly 100 universities. The mission, said co-author Rob Grabow, is to prove that college students are anything but apathetic.

“I think college students are very aware of what goes on around them,” said Pajak, especially with the Internet and the many media sources that are out there.”

Pajak’s contributions to the book take a very personal approach to politics. “These big ideas like democracy play out in everyday life,” she explained.

One of only a few authors to have two works in the book, Pajak wrote the poem, “An African-American Step Show” and the essay “On Being Different in the South” while she was an undergraduate at Agnes Scott College. While very different in style, both works speak to the different ways people respond to being alienated from the larger culture.

“We were attracted to Alexandra’s contribution, ‘On Being Different in the South,’ said Grabow, “not only because of her wonderful storytelling ability and the fact that it is remarkably well written, but also because it spoke to the nature of prejudice and the notion of might making right. Her contributions were among the best.”

Pajak said she got involved with...
Be prepared for your annual performance review

This is the first installment of a quarterly career development column. Given the time of year, it seems appropriate that this column focus on performance appraisal. The question is: Will you be ready for your annual performance review?

More than two years without raises, much of the focus has been on the anticipated salary increase this month. However, the annual performance review is an event to which all faculty and staff — supervisors and non-supervisors — should devote more time.

For staff employees, performance appraisal forms have recently been distributed. Keep in mind that the annual performance review should not be viewed as a report card, but as a two-way conversation about accomplishments, areas that need improvement and plans for future growth and development. To get the most out of this formal yearly meeting, though, it is important for both parties to be prepared.

Staff

Employees should take the time to do a self-appraisal, taking note of strengths and weaknesses, preparing a list of accomplishments in 2004, and thinking about developmental activities for 2005. A development plan can include a range of activities — training in a new software package, participating in training certificate programs, serving on a department or campus committee, attending a professional conference — as well as ways to contribute towards the accomplishment of departmental goals.

Another strategy is to ask a supervisor for feedback about performance throughout the year. It will help avoid surprises during the meeting, and will enable the individual to make positive and appropriate corrections.

Supervisors

Consider what feedback you have provided throughout the year. Have you thought about how this employee’s performance contributed to the success of your unit last year? What goals would you like the employee to accomplish next year? These questions should be considered when preparing for a performance review and in planning for next year’s performance goals.

Supervisors should encourage employee feedback during the meeting. Though not required, it may prove useful to schedule time for an informal mid-year review. It will serve to keep the lines of communication open and reduce the possibility of unpleasant surprises at the yearly review.

Performance is not a one-time event, so be prepared for a productive meeting.

College of Management meets $45 million fundraising goal

The College of Management has achieved its $45 million fundraising goal to cover the cost of its new home without requiring state support.

More than 250 donors participated. “The majority of these donors are first-time major givers to the College, representing our rapidly growing base of supporters,” said Terry Blum, dean of the business school. “Our trust in the generous support and leadership of our donors enabled us to accelerate our move into our spectacular new home.”

Equipped with the latest educational and technology, the Management building has enabled the College to compete with the nation’s other top-tier business programs. Further advancement, however, will require sustained effort. “Together we can build on this tremendous success with a focused effort to retain and attract the best and brightest faculty, students, and staff who share our passion for Georgia Tech and the desire to reach our full potential,” Blum said. “Our fundraising efforts will now largely focus on increasing our endowment and operational resources to support our faculty, students, programs and other strategic priorities.”

Faculty committees seeking candidates

The Institute Nominating Committee is preparing the ballot for the upcoming election to fill positions on the standing committees of both the General Faculty and Academic Faculty. However, there are still a number of ballot slots to be filled.

Committee Chair Joe Hughes said that faculty members may nominate themselves for one of these ballot openings by sending an e-mail to joe.hughes@ece.gatech.edu indicating the committee(s) of interest.

More information about the election is available at www.facultysenate.gatech.edu, and details on each committee may be found in Section 2.4.6 of the Faculty Handbook at www.academic.gatech.edu/handbook.

Careers Development Quarterly

by Deborah Covin Wilson
National honor recognizes Procurement Services

Matt Nagel
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

A key component of Georgia Tech's business administrative services has received a national ranking of excellence.

The National Purchasing Institute recognized the Office of Procurement Services, which manages a number of essential campus services such as purchasing, risk management and accounts payable, for its institutional effectiveness.

Judy Whitfield, associate director for Procurement Services, says every member of the staff should take credit for this accomplishment. "We're very proud of the award. Our staff has worked extremely hard, and we're extremely professional. We've got a great rapport with our end users here at Georgia Tech and that communication has helped us to succeed."

According to NPI award committee chairperson Wayne Casper, the Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award "establishes a benchmark for procurement offices to measure how they're doing."

Georgia Tech was cited for meeting a broad base of national standards and maintaining a nationally certified staff of contracting officers. Procurement Services Director Tom Pearson believes the award is a springboard for things to come. "This award is a validation of a long process that we've implemented over the last few years to improve ourselves. The researchers and principal investigators here at Georgia Tech have set high standards, and we know they deserve the highest quality of service from their administration. This award lets us know that we meet the national standards of excellence. We don't want to settle there, we want to exceed them."

Building upon their success, Pearson says they don't need an award to justify their hard work, but it is an honor to receive a national award of excellence that recognizes what they're doing right at Georgia Tech.

Jackets face tough road in '05

Coming off a 7-5 season and a school-record eighth straight bowl appearance, the Georgia Tech football team will face its most challenging schedule in recent memory.

The Yellow Jackets' 2005 football schedule, announced Jan. 20 by the Atlantic Coast Conference, opens at national runner-up Auburn on Sept. 3. The trip to Auburn kicks off a road schedule that also includes visits to Virginia Tech, Miami, Virginia and Duke.

Eight of the 11 teams on Tech's schedule were bowl-eligible last fall, and four teams — Auburn (No. 2), Georgia (6), Virginia Tech (10) and Miami (11) — finished the season ranked among the top 15. Virginia (No. 23) was also in the final Top 25. Following the opener, Tech begins its home slate and its Atlantic Coast Conference schedule by hosting North Carolina on Sept. 10 at Bobby Dodd Stadium at Historic Grant Field.

For the 13th year in a row, Georgia Tech will be featured in ESPN's Thursday night broadcast when the Jackets host N.C. State. With the assistance of these volunteers, we can work together on a variety of outdoor campus projects. With the assistance of these volunteers, nearly 2,000 work hours are completed throughout the one-day event. Planned for April 16, TBSD is an opportunity to promote campus pride and beauty, while creating bonds between the fellow citizens of Georgia Tech. For more information, visit www.techbeautificationday.org or e-mail Paul Supawanich at ggt10@ptcom.gatech.edu.

IN BRIEF:

Employee Self-Service offline

Due to technical issues within the PeopleSoft 8.1 system, Employee Self-Service has been offline for several weeks. Though it was restored late last week, the Payroll Department decided to print all of the pay advices, both biweekly and monthly, and distribute them to the departments as usual, since this is the first pay period for pay rate changes.

Tax forms have been mailed to the address of record. If another copy is needed, employees are encouraged to access and print those forms through Employee Self-Service at www.techworks.gatech.edu.

El-Sayed retires as editor of chemistry journal

For the first time in 25 years, the Journal of Physical Chemistry has a new editor-in-chief. Mostafa El-Sayed, Julius Brown chair and Regents' professor in chemistry, retired from the journal last month. Since taking the helm in 1980, El-Sayed expanded the journal from a thin bi-weekly magazine with only 3,800 pages a year to two weekly journals of 27,000 pages annually.

After being hired by the American Chemical Society to run the journal, El-Sayed wasted no time working to enhance its prestige. "I started by initiating a strong mailing campaign to potential physical chemistry authors in the top 25 schools in the country," said El-Sayed. "I added a letter and feature articles section to the journal."

Over the past 10 years, it has been among the most cited journals in chemistry and publishes the largest number of papers in the field of nanoscience, said El-Sayed.

George Schatz, professor of chemistry at Northwestern University, has succeeded El-Sayed as editor.

Tech rises among world’s best MBA programs

The Financial Times recently ranked the College of Management 84th out of the world’s top 100 full-time MBA programs, a ten-position jump since last year’s survey.

In addition to the overall ranking, the 2005 survey listed the College as among the best value for the money and in graduates’ career progress.

Of the top 100, the United States claims 58, with 14 from the United Kingdom, seven from Canada, and three each from China, France and Spain.

Date set for campus cleanup

Each year, Tech Beautification Day (TBSD) attracts students, faculty and alumni to work together on a variety of outdoor campus projects. With the assistance of these volunteers, nearly 2,000 work hours are completed throughout the one-day event. Planned for April 16, TBSD is an opportunity to promote campus pride and beauty, while creating bonds between the fellow citizens of Georgia Tech. For more information, visit www.techbeautificationday.org or e-mail Paul Supawanich at ggt10@ptcom.gatech.edu.
C A M P U S  E V E N T S

Feb. 3
The H. Bruce McEver Poetry Reading, featuring Hart Brown, Stuart Distehl, Thomas Lux, H. Bruce McEver and Natasha Trethewey, will be at 4:30 p.m. in the Clary Theater. No tickets or reservations required.

Feb. 5
The Pera Center of the Arts hosts the Aquila Theater Company production of “The Invisible Man.” For tickets, call 894-9600.

Feb. 12
The American Museum of Papermaking hosts a Valentine’s Family Workshop, from 1 - 3 p.m. For more information, visit www.amp.gatech.edu.

Feb. 11
The Office of Information Technology explains Georgia Tech’s information security architecture. For tickets, call 894-6944 to reserve a seat.

Feb. 17
The School of Aerospace Engineering welcomes J. Victor Lebacqz, associate administrator for aeronautics research at NASA, on “NASA Aeronautics in the 21st Century.” At 1 p.m. in the Clary Theater. For more information, e-mail carole.gaines@aerospace.gatech.edu.

Feb. 3
The Office of Organizational Development sponsors a seminar in “Business Writing Skills,” from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in room 308, Sacant Building. To register or for more information, visit www.trainweb.gatech.edu/mastcal.asp.

Feb. 9
The College of Management’s IMPACT Speaker Series welcomes Scott Donnelly, senior vice president of General Electric, at 4:30 p.m. in the LeCraw Auditorium.

Feb. 10
The Office of Information Technology explains Georgia Tech’s information security architecture at 9 a.m. in room 242, Rich Building. To register or for more information, visit www.trainweb.gatech.edu/mastcal.asp.

Feb. 16
The Office of Sponsored Programs offers a class on how to find research funding. Call 894-6944 to reserve a seat.

Feb. 17
The Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning will host a Faculty Development Seminar on “Educational Components of Research Proposals,” from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the Library’s Homer Rice Training Center. Lunch is provided to registrants. Visit www.ce.tice.gatech.edu.

MISCELLANEOUS
Feb. 8-9
The Campus Recreation Center’s G.I.T. FIT Program offers a HealthCheck blood screening from 7:30 - 10:30 a.m. for faculty and staff. To schedule an appointment, call 894-3987 or e-mail jonathan.hart@crc.gatech.edu.

Feb. 10
The School of Modern Languages hosts representatives from major companies and governmental organizations to speak with students regarding international internship opportunities for summer and fall, beginning at 1:50 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom.

C A S S I F I E D S

AUTOMOBILES
1997 Triumph TR4A. Owned for 27 years by Tech professors. Keep it in the family. Runs and looks great, $7,500. Call 894-2719 or e-mail andrew.math@gatech.edu.
1992 Volvo 240. Champagne, beige interior, automatic, a/c, 100,000 miles, regular maintenance, $4,500. Call 894-0761 or e-mail neill.mcgahee@alumni.gatech.edu.
1998 Chevrolet Silverado K1500. Burgundy, 88K miles, off-road package, premium sound, 2-inch mud grip tires, brush guard, nerf bars. Asking $9,999. E-mail type.walker@stucen.gatech.edu or call 404-757-5759.
2000 BMW 528i. Dark blue, excellent condition, fully loaded, sport suspension, moonroof, leather, remote entry, dual air bags, CD, alarm, 85K miles, $21,000. Call 770-813-1714 or e-mail mary.duncans@dev.gatech.edu.
2000 Nissan Maxima GLE. One owner, garaged, 65K miles with 100K warranty, automatic, hunter green, leather, Bose audio, excellent condition, $12,000. Call 770-457-8184 or e-mail larry.fountain@edl.gatech.edu.
2002 Volvo S60. Excellent condition, 25K miles, silver with beige leather interior, loaded. Used as second car for distance travel. Has 100,000 mile warranty, $22,000. Call Katie, 678-596-3905.
Furniture
Antique bed, full size, includes mattress and headboard, $200; sleeper sofa, $100; rocking chair, $25; two black papasan chairs, $50 each; small loveseat $25. All items FOR. E-mail alicia.kelly@facilities.gatech.edu for photographs.
REAL ESTATE/ROOMMATES
1BR/1BA condo in perfect location. Walk to Chastain Park. Largest 2nd floor unit, new paint and HVAC, hardwood floors, security system, swimming pool, assigned parking. Priced at $135,000. Call 404-951-9922.
Rent-to-own 3BR/2BA home in Roswell. Hardwood floors, new appliances, huge deck, huge bonus room, large 3/4-acre lot, open kitchen, plenty of space. $1,195/mo. or $169,000. E-mail paul.miceli@gtri.gatech.edu.
Two-story, 2BR/2.5BA updated condo in Buckhead, patio overlooking golf course, large 3/4-acre lot, open kitchen, plenty of space. $1,250/mo. includes association fee. Call 404-418-1232.
1BR/1BA condo in Midtown. One block from Piedmont Park, 2 min drive to GT gym, pools, covered parking, 24-hour faculty, $1,100/month OBO. Call 404-595-3140.
SPORTS/fitness/RECREATION
Tuff Stuff Muscle 5 all-in-one gym. Eight-station with leg press attachment. Like new, kept in finished basement. Paid $1,200, sell for $500 OBO. Call 894-8392 or e-mail bob.lang@police.gatech.edu.
MISCELLANEOUS
Large aquarium with accessories, $150 OBO. E-mail alicia.kelly@facilities.gatech.edu for photographs.
Jacuzzi “Venicia” jetted tub. Floor model bought on sale, but didn’t add bath. List price $3,899. Exterior 72” x 42” x 23”, biscuit/oyster, $1,000 OBO. E-mail jrwatts@isye.gatech.edu or call 385-3054.
Nintendo Game Cube, like new, with two controllers $50 Portable, 6-inch color monitor screen attaches to PlayStation 2, $60. E-mail kathy.check@ece.gatech.edu or call 770-975-3794.
Neon Marilyn Monroe poster, “Boulevard of Broken Dreams,” painted by Helmwein. She is outlined in pink neon. 24” x 30” x 3” in black wood frame, $40. Call 894-1390 or e-mail bruce.henson@library.gatech.edu.

The classifieds are a free service provided to members of the faculty and staff. To submit an ad, email the text to editor@icpa.gatech.edu. Due to the volume of submissions, it may take several weeks for ads to appear in print.