Repair work begins at N. Avenue Apartments

North Avenue Apartments will soon undergo brick repair and replacement work that will take six to eight months to complete.

"Contractors will be replacing and repairing brick on the façade of the east side of the complex," said James Fetig, associate vice president of Communications & Marketing. "The need for maintenance was identified during the original analysis before Georgia Tech assumed ownership last year because the brick veneer is not properly tied to the building. "This is not a structural issue," said Fetig. "This is veneer brick repair and replacement work that needs to be done.

Bricks continued, page 3

Tech colleagues care for campus cat population

In a community where greater enrollment is often the goal, several members of the Tech community are concerned with keeping their numbers at a status quo. Construction project manager Steven Johnson and utilities analyst Susan Wardrope work to keep feral cats on campus at a sustainable level, while preventing more from moving in. Together with a network of campus participants, the group works on its own time—and in most cases, its own dime—to alter, monitor and feed these felines.

A part of Auxiliary Services during his "day job," Johnson instills the practice of Trap, Neuter and Release (TNR), which works to equalize rather than eliminate feral cat populations. When animal control officers capture these cats, euthanasia is the typical result, as they are well past the age of human socialization. In doing this, a vacuum is created wherein other feral cats will just move into the area, continuing the cycle.

However, the central TNR theory is that a controlled community of altered cats aids in maintaining area populations and keeping more feral cats from moving in. "The best advantages to having them altered is that they start to concentrate around the feeding stations, and they don't have any urge to mate," Wardrope said. "They have their food, their sleeping place and their area that they're familiar with." "They defend their territory, keeping other cats from moving into the area, which stabilizes the population," Johnson said. "An unaltered male will travel up to three miles. An altered cat will only travel about 300 meters."

The program at Tech started in 1996. "We'd get reports of cats in the area," said Johnson, who added he discovered students and employees were leaving food for the animals.

He said they counted 19 adult and juvenile cats on East Campus in those early days. In the first full feral cat census for the Institute, Johnson said they easily counted 179 cats in late 1998—"22 in one colony that lived in the president's glade. (Today, Johnson says, that colony is down to three occasional visitors.) Now, as far as Johnson and his group can tell, about 34 cats call Tech home, including only two or three unaltered females—which Johnson says he is still trying to trap. According to the duo, 30 to 35 cats on campus is very sustainable. Each feeding station has enough of a colony for one dominant male and one dominant female that protect the territory. This "territorial management practice" leads to a fairly accurate understanding of where overlap between the colonies exists.

Johnson and Wardrope work to answer the call—literally—if someone reports a cat on campus. "I'll go out that night, see if it's a new cat or one..."

Cats continued, page 2

Into the wild

Vice provost for Academic Diversity named

Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Anderson Smith announced that biomedical engineering Professor Gilda Barabino will serve as Tech's first vice provost for Academic Diversity (VPAD).

Barabino will serve on the president's cabinet, and will assess, define and direct the Institute's growing diversity efforts, including the recruitment and retention of underrepresented populations in both the student body and faculty.

"A major challenge to academic diversity—one that is not unique to Tech—is transforming the culture and environment to one where diversity is infused throughout all aspects of teaching, learning, research and service," Barabino said.

With oversight of the Office of Academic Diversity named

The Office of the Provost named Biomedical Engineering Professor Gilda Barabino as Tech's first vice provost for Academic Diversity.

Minority Educational Development Services (OMED), the Center for Women in Science, and Technology (WST) and Tech's FOCUS and ADVANCE programs, Barabino will spearhead the strategic development of Institute efforts to increase diversity in the Institute's established mission of research, education and service. FOCUS recruits underrepresented groups into graduate school, and the National Science Foundation (NSF) ADVANCE initiative works to increase the representation of women in academic leadership.

VPAD continued, page 3

Language Institute turns 50

A celebration is under way at Georgia Tech's Language Institute. Faculty, staff and students mark the golden anniversary of the Intensive English Program, which serves as an English-as-a-second-language resource for international professionals and students seeking to improve their English skills.

The late Louis Zahm, professor emeritus of the Modern Languages Department, founded the intensive English program in the summer of 1958 as part of Georgia Tech's early global outreach. Initially part of Modern Languages, the Language Institute marks its golden anniversary this year with a special celebration and showcase event, "The Year of Language.

Language continued, page 3

WWW.WHISTLE.GATECH.EDU
of our own,” Johnson said. “If it’s a new cat, I’ll try to stake it out and see where it’s going—to established food stations or somewhere else.” Sometimes, Johnson said, people who don’t know about the campus program put a food dish outside of a building for any “strays” they see. If it is determined that a sighted cat is a new “resident,” Johnson traps it—an undertaking that may require several hours of waiting. “I know all the third-shift police officers by name.” He keeps the caged animal in his garage overnight and then carries it to the vet the next morning. The cats are neutered or spayed, vaccinated—many for the first time—and dosed with flea control medication. Males are released the following day after surgery. Females are released three days later. For captured kittens, Johnson either finds adoptive families or takes them to no-kill shelters after they are socialized.

“Without a feeding program to localize a colony, you’ll continue to have mangy-looking cats that are more susceptible to the other diseases and other vectors that they can catch.” But, in what could be seen as a disadvantage in the program, unaltered females tend to have larger litters because of the better nutrition. “When we first started, cats were giving birth to four, but only 50 percent survived. Now they can give birth to a litter of nine, and seven will survive,” he said.

One challenge Johnson and Wardrope have noticed is well-wishers often will leave food out, which aids in diluting established feeding stations. “We leave a note and let them know,” he said. “We’re trying to get the word out that there is a good program—just by going from 179 to 34 cats it shows it’s working.”

But Johnson and Wardrope are by no means acting alone. Roughly 30 people are on his e-mail list, Johnson said, and about six handle the campus-wide feeding stations. Johnson himself handles the heavy lifting—tracking the cats’ movements and trapping them.

“We just started doing this out-of-pocket,” Johnson said. Through the e-mail network, however, people donated food and money for surgeries beyond spaying and neutering.

The duo’s efforts have led to collaborations outside the Institute. When Fulton County’s Animal Control units respond to an on-campus call, Johnson receives a courtesy call if it’s a cat issue. This in turn has expanded his TNR efforts, establishing partnerships with Fulton, Cobb, Douglas, and DeKalb counties.

“It’s a quiet pro quo,” he says. “Fulton County has the Fix ’Em Free program. When they found out we were running this initiative at tech, they offered us use of this program. In exchange, when they have reports of a feral colony somewhere, I’m available to go out and talk to people (about TNR).”

In assisting with feral cat colonies in off-campus communities, Johnson explains: “I place traps, Neuter and Return philosophy. Letting people know the usual fate of a feral animal taken to a shelter. “Once people learn about the program, and Steve offers to take (the cats) in to have them altered and vaccinated, they usually have no problem throwing food out for them,” Wardrope said.

“I volunteer to support both the Fulton County Animal Services and Catlanta, a local organization that is basically the feral cat coordinator of the Lifeline Animal Project.” Catlanta recently received a grant to aid in the spaying and neutering of feral cats within the area. It’s a supplement to what Fulton County currently provides, and the group is now in negotiations with DeKalb County to create a similar “Fix ’Em Free” program.

“I’ll help get them spayed or neutered, all of them are vaccinated for rabies (and) they can receive additional vaccinations, if requested,” Johnson said, adding that almost all counties have a low-cost program that supplements the cost of altering a cat or dog. “I mainly concentrate on the feral cats, and I’ll go out and do the assessment—is it just a back-yard colony; or an abandoned cat colony that’s gone feral. Then I’ll report to the agency that’s going to sponsor it—Catlanta (or) Southern Hope.”

And evidence points to TNR reducing the load on animal shelters. Excepting a spike due to foreclosure increases, Johnson said, Fulton County has noticed a marked reduction in the amount of feral cats brought to the shelter. According to Johnson, Atlanta-area programs have attracted the attention of several national organizations, including the Humane Society of the United States and Alley Cat Allies (which fights for TNR protocols nationwide). “We haven’t gotten our city commissions to enact ordinances yet, but we’re working toward that.”

Some organizations, however, oppose the principal of TNR, including People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). The Wildlife Society and the American Furt Conservancy. PETA states on its Web site: “Because of the huge number of feral cats and the severe shortage of good homes, the difficulty of socialization, and the dangers lurking where most feral cats live, it may be necessary—and the most compassionate choice—to euthanize feral cats. ... If you leave them where they are, they will almost certainly die a painful death. A painless injection is far kinder than any fate that feral cats might be deprived of. (About TNR.)”

Johnson doesn’t see it that way.

“Feral cats are still the main natural prey species of outdoor cats. Just because one might kill a chipmunk or Carolina wren does not make them a species living within a habitat, deserve to be exterminated.”

Overall, Johnson and Wardrope are trying to get the feral cat management plan under way in the metro area, and then slowly branch out to the outlying counties. And he’s been reaching out to other University System of Georgia units.

But as for Tech, the next steps for the program include establishing the Library and Information Center’s feeding station and then moving further north on campus to the Howey building and the College of Computing. “We’ve gotten reports from the building manager, as well as from the College of Computing, that they’re not feeding the area. We’re trying to identify where would be the best place to establish a feeding station.”
To ensure that we increase the life cycle and longevity of the building:

The work is being done section by section to ensure security and privacy for students.

In addition to the windows being blocked off, workers will be restricted to certain areas of the building during construction, emergency exits will be kept open and extra lighting will be installed.

Gablene representatives say the work is being done being done with conservation and recycling in mind. Unused brick, which has been removed from the façade, will be crushed and used for landscapes. Bricks will also be salvaged for any future spot repairs.

IN BRIEF:

Nunn School awarded $300,000

The European Union awarded $300,000 ($471,855) to the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs as one of 11 American universities chosen to host a European Union Center of Excellence through 2011. The Language Institute is the bridge between these students and their next educational step. Having a positive Georgia Tech experience during their stay often brings them back later for a graduate program. "It's a great way to promote the graduate and undergradate programs at Tech," Tucker said.

For more information: www.li.gatech.edu

GTCN cleans up with Telly Awards

The Georgia Tech Cable Network received three Telly Awards for the second consecutive year. Episodes on the Institute's rivalry with the University of Georgia and showcasing the Gold Rush dance team, from the sports series "On the Flats," earned the awards.

The Telly Awards recognize excellence in production companies, television stations, advertising agencies, cable operators and corporate video departments. For more information, visit www.gtcn.gatech.edu.

GTRI earns APEX awards

Georgia Tech Research Institute earned two APEX awards—for GTRI's annual report and for the 2007 PoultryTech newsletter from the Agricultural Technology Research Program. APEX awards recognize professionalism in communications. For more information, visit www.gtri.gatech.edu.

www.whistle.gatech.edu
**Facilities names new Design and Construction director**

Darrell Scott Jones has been named Tech’s new director of Design and Construction in the Facilities Department, effective Aug. 4. A 1978 Tech graduate with a bachelor’s degree in architecture, Jones is a registered architect in Georgia with more than 30 years of design and construction management experience, in conjunction with established reputation as a leader in architecture and building. His experience spans all stages of building projects, from pre-planning, design, construction and completion, totaling more than 40 capital projects totaling more than $2 billion in value.

“We are indeed fortunate to have a person of Scott’s experience return to Georgia Tech to lead our future building program,” said Associate Vice President for Facilities Chuck Rhode. “He will become involved immediately in design of the G. Wayne Clough Undergraduate Commons building as well as other major projects now under construction. We welcome him back to the campus.”

Jones began his career working under Tech alumna Jeanie Portman, who is a project manager and project developer. After 16 years with John Portman & Associates, he left in 1994 to enter J.A. Jones Construction Co., his family’s international construction business. Working as a construction manager, he specialized in the design-build method.

From 2001 to 2006, Jones served as director of construction for Niawat Island Development Partners in Charleston, S.C. From 2006 to 2007, he was project executive for Ballou-Beatty Construction Co., and most recently he served as president of Tempest Environmental Systems in Chapel Hill, N.C.

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**CAMPUS EVENTS**

### Arts & Culture

#### August 22

Singer and pianist Jon Magnlaugh will perform at the Ferst Center for the Arts from 8 to 10 p.m. Tickets: $15 and $25, or $12 and $20 with a subscription. For more information, visit www.ferstcenter.gatech.edu.

#### August 27

Atlanta architect and Georgia Tech graduate John C. Portman will deliver the first Architecture Centennial Lecture, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., in the Architecture Auditorium. A series of lectures and events will celebrate 100 years of architectural education at Tech. A two-part exhibition will be held in the West Architecture Atrium. For more information, visit www.coa.gatech.edu.

### Conferences & Lectures

#### July 30

The Parker H. Petit Institute for Bioengineering and Bioscience will host a biosensor workshop, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., in IBB building room 1128. Learn more about the biosensor projects developing across Georgia institutions in an effort to build collaboration and partnerships. For more information, visit www.ibb.gatech.edu.

The National Association of Asian-American Professionals presents U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. in the College of Management’s LeCraw Auditorium. The event is sponsored by the Asian-American Professionals. Seating is limited. For more information, visit www.naaap.org.

### Faculty/Staff Development

#### July 31

The Office of Organizational Development presents a Brown Bag session on “Everyday Creativity,” a video presentation hosted by photojournalist Dewitt Doll. The seminar is offered from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in room 308 of the Savant building. For more information and other available sessions, visit www.orgdev.gatech.edu.

### Miscellaneous

#### August 12-14

The Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning (CETL) presents New Faculty Orientation, starting at 8 a.m. in the Waddle Auditorium. The first two days will introduce new faculty members to current community members, and the Office of Human Resources will provide benefits and services orientation on the third day. For more information, visit www.cetl.gatech.edu.

#### Ongoing

The Office of Organizational Development offers an Emergency Preparedness certificate consisting of several courses. For more information on scheduling or for other classes offered, visit www.orgdev.gatech.edu.

The “Defining Customer Service” certificate program provides campus groups and employees with the foundation for offering exemplary service to those both on and off campus. For more information, visit www.training.gatech.edu.

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### AUTOMOBILES/MOTORCYCLES

- 2005 Honda Accord EX, 6-speed, leather and power. Sunroof, 6-disc player, heated seats. Great cond. $1,150 OBO.
- Also: 1993 Mazda RX7 twin turbo. 76,000 miles, stage 3 clutch, Apexi controller, pillar gauges, 5-inch exhaust. 2 sets of wheels, $1,120 OBO. Call 770-654-2875.

### REAL ESTATE/ROOMS

- For rent: 1BR unit located on 11th floor of Spire Condo at Peachtree and 8th. For info, e-mail jmihelich@comcast.net.
- For sale: Midtown 1BR condo. Walk to work—mile to Tech. Hardwoods, travertine, granite, 2-car garage. Park, great view. $179,800. Call 404-840-8220 or e-mail tiffany@gatech.edu for info.
- For rent: Less than a year old, 1BR condo (Element in Atlanta Station). Walk to Tech, incl. washer, dryer, refrigerator, swimming, workout area and parking. $1,200/month incl. Internet, cable and water. Call 404-718-0398 or e-mail mike6086@gmail.com.
- Rent or lease: 4BR/2BA, large bonus room, full finished basement and 3-car garage with large fenced back yard & nice deck. $1,595/month, avail. Property located in east Cobb off Sandy Plains Road. Call Mr. Ward, 770-891-9314.
- Houses for rent: 4BR/5BA, 3BR/2BA. Renovated bungalow w/ granite, garden tubs, hardwoods, Direct bus to Tech campus. $215. Visit or e-mail info@BauhausLLC.com or www.BauhausLLC.com. 4BR/4.5BA, 3-year-old cluster home in Buckhead. Springlake Lane, private neighborhood, 5 min. from Tech, ideal for family & fami- ly, $795,000. Call Leslie, 404-457-2675. 2BR/2.5BA townhouse. 5 miles to Tech. Gated community w/clubhouse, private pooloverooks pool. Fresh paint, newer appl. and laminate hardwoods. $172,000 (furnishings neg.). Call 404-725-1716 or e-mail eileen@junoo.com.
- For rent: 2BR/2BA condo in Buckhead, 6 miles to Tech. Parklike, gated community w/ 24-hour security and clubhouse/pool. Washer/dryer incl. Utilities incl. basic cable and water. $1,500 + deposit, 1yr. lease. E-mail sy98@bellsouth.net for info.

### SPORTS/FITNESS/RECREATION

- 35R/28A peaceful, furnished, water-front cottage along southern Outer Banks, N.C. $150/day, 3-day min. Pets OK. Boat slips. 2 sailboats + kayak. Visit www.readymadeparties.com or e-mail jud.ready@gatech.edu.
- Above-ground pool, 5 ft. deep, includes ladder and pump. Only used twice. $500 or best offer. E-mail jae.collins750@yahoo.com.

### FURNITURE/APPLIANCES

- 3-piece sectional sofa and cherry coffee table. Micro fiber suede beige sleeper, dual recliners with center console, both couch and recliners have two arms. Wedge-style cherry entertainment center; quality wood. Asking $500 for each piece. Call 770-953-4092.

### MISCELLANEOUS

- Free yellow jacket and weapon next removal. Needs to be both on and off campus. For more information, visit www.solar.gatech.edu.

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*Ads appear and run for three weeks in the order in which they are received.*

E-mail submissions to editor@comm.gatech.edu.