Four finalists named for COA dean

T he Office of the Provost has named four finalists in the search for dean of the College of Architecture. Interim Dean and Professor Doug Allen was named to the post after Dean Tom Galloway died in March 2007. Candidates for the position are Alan Balfour from Renssalaer Polytechnic Institute, Yehuda E. Kalay from the University of California, Berkeley, and Bruce Stiftel of Florida State University. Four will visit the campus during the first half of April, according to the provost’s office.

“Through the diversity of programs, strength of the faculty and students, and active alumni and community base, Dean Tom Galloway has left a powerful legacy in the College of Architecture,” said Provost Gary Schuster. “I’m pleased with the four finalists in the search for dean.”

Clough to helm Smithsonian

O n Saturday, President G. Wayne Clough announced that he will accept the position as secretary of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., effective July 1.

Named the Institute’s 10th president in 1994, he is the first alumnus to hold the office, having earned his bachelor’s and master’s degree in civil engineering in 1965. Under his leadership, the Institute has thrived—in enrollment, national and international recognition, research expenditures and square footage.

“I leave Georgia Tech with a debt of gratitude to everyone who helped the Institute become the premier institution of higher learning that it is today,” Clough said. “I am proud of all that we accomplished with the help of our faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends.”

During his tenure, Clough led an unprecedented expansion of the campus, funding $1 billion in the construction and renovation of more than 25 buildings. The Institute’s literal footprint changed, seeing the construction of Campus Recreation Center, the Petit Biotechnology Building, the Ford Environmental Science and Technology Building and the Klaus Advanced Computing Building. The Marcus Nanotechnology Research Center, still under construction, is scheduled to be completed in October. In all of this, the Institute’s commitment to environmental sustainability has been brought to the fore.

A major aspect of his legacy was the tenet of collaboration and cross-disciplinary initiatives. From academic degrees to interdisciplinary centers, the collaborative nature of the Institute has attracted exceptional faculty and students, which in turn more than doubled annual research contracts.

This spirit of collaboration extends beyond the campus to the city itself. The partnership between Atlanta and the Institute to revitalize the Fifth Street Corridor across the Interstate was realized in Technology Square in 2003. In the spirit of “Vanishing Boundaries,” the title of his most recent State of the Institute report, he realizes the need to hit the ground running.

As a student at Texas A&M, she studied pre-med as a psychology major. Pursuing completion of her bachelor’s degree, Naser decided she instead wanted to make the move into higher education. She received her master’s in student affairs administration, and comes to Tech after several years of experience in post-secondary education.

“For me, Georgia Tech is very reflective of the state, and the way as well as the spirit of its education,” Naser said. “I appreciate my experiences there, and I’m drawn to an Institute that has a...
Naser, cont’d from page 1:

strong academic rigor, but also its traditions.
She worked at A&M for several years and has been specifically involved in new student programs for the past five years, both at Southern Methodist University in Dallas and the University of North Texas in Denton. She considers Tech the culmination of her previous experiences: She’s worked at a research university (A&M), an affluent, private school in an urban environment (SMU) and a state university (NTU).

Part of the Office of Success Programs, FASET has strong programs with a good reputation, she says. Some areas FASET is looking at include expanding the parent-orientation aspect, citing a national trend in post-secondary education to involve parents.

“Historically, parents have attended FASET, but we’re now looking at pro- gramming specifically for parents.” Most of these programs tie in with how the students’ experiences will change over the next few years as they move from uninitiated freshman to college graduate.

She also wants to focus on highlighting and under- scoring academic and faculty accomplishments. “You see the benefits when a student is proud of their academic community,” she said. “Students can use FASET to learn and conceptualize the role of faculty on campus. This knowledge and appreciation would also help students understand the unique benefits of a research institute.”

Other initiatives she wishes to pursue include more programming for “unique” populations, primarily transfer and interna- tional students. The challeng- e with these students, she says, is they join a cohesive community, but are less stratified, coming from other institutions. “They’re different,” she said.

Naser is a six-year mem- ber of the National Orientation Directors Association (NODA), an international professional organization made up of orientation and transition professionals. “It’s great networking, great educa- tion and great experience,” she said.

Film, cont’d from page 1:

As an international student film festival—fitting, for an Italian Film Studies class. “Some students are real celebrities [to the locals],” Dobranski said. “They get to see it live around them as they watch it.”

Among LCC’s special film offerings next academic year will be a course on Animation Studies and “African Diasporic Cinema, the Arts, and New Media.” Dalle Vacche says the latter course, which she co-designed with LCC Assistant Professor Fox Harrell, differs from standard classes on African cinema because it offers an innovative interdisciplinary mix. This subject is near and dear to Dalle Vacche, who has been to West Africa a few times. She belongs to a team that is organizing the first formal academic symposium in Ouagadougou, called “African Cinema and the Visual Arts.”

For now, faculty members are work- ing through the spring semester, gear- ing up for this year’s trip. Applicants have already been accepted, and the first deadline for payment is coming up at the end of March. Students leave Atlanta for Gorizia May 23, after 10 days of intensive study of Italian film and culture.

Dalle Vacche says that at the end of the summer term, the “cast and crew” hold a Georgia Tech awards ceremony, with professors from the region as the jury—fitting, for an Italian Film Studies class.

[Students] have a genuinely immersive experience with the local people as they make their documen- taries,” Dobranski said. “They get to know Italian culture and identity by watching the films, but then they get to see it live around them as they make their own documentary.”
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plished with the help of our faculty,
staff, students, alumni and friends."
— G. Wayne Clough
President, Georgia Tech

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IN BRIEF:

The National Association of Home Builders Research Center in February selected College of Architecture and College of Computing Professor Charles Eastman for its board of directors.

Some of his goals during his four-year term are to collaborate on research with the center and introduce more advanced information technology and automation to home-building.

For more information, visit www.coa.gatech.edu.

Green leadership recognized

The Georgia Tech Earth Day Committee seeks nominations for its Environmental Leadership Award, which recognizes any faculty, staff, stu-
dent, alum or retiree who is a leader in recycling, clean-air and other environmental issues.

For more information, visit www.earthday.gatech.edu.

GT 1000 instructors sought

The Office of Success Programs seeks volun-
teers to teach sections of our 1000 Freshmen Seminar for Fall 2008. The seminar helps incoming freshmen adjust to college life, learn about their majors and related careers and introduces them to campus.

Sections are comprised of 24 to 30 stu-
dents and are assisted by upper-class team leaders.

Instructors are welcome from any department (discipline, academic, service), provided they hold a master’s, have been employed at Tech for at least one year and have a supervisor’s or department head’s support. Training is provided.

For more information, contact Steven Girardot, director of Success Programs, at 814-1945 or at steven.girardot@vps.gatech.edu or visit www.gt.1000.gatech.edu.

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diligent work and thoughtful efforts of the search committee to find such a high-qualified pool of finalists to build on Tech’s future.

Ballou, who was a Tech faculty member from 1978 to 1988, is both a alumnus of RPI’s School of Architecture. Previously, he served as chairman of the Architectural Association in London and was Smith Professor and Dean of the School of Architecture at Rice University. While at Tech, he was a professor and director of Studies in Architecture.

Throughout his varied positions, he has worked to create strong pro-
fessional programs and develop innovative graduate degrees.

Ballou received the Topaz Medal in 2000, the highest award for an architecture educator in North America. He was educated at Edinburg University in Scotland and in a member of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

His most recent book—written with David McCrone—is “Creating a Scottish Parliament.” He has also written a series of books on the architecture and urbanism of global cities, including “Shanghai,” “New York” and “Berlin.” The American Institute of Architects awarded
