Members of the Tech community will look back on 2008 with a mixture of emotions. President G. Wayne Clough, a fixture at Tech for 14 years, left Georgia Tech in July to become secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

Almost as Provost Gary B. Schuster was named interim president, the Institute—along with the other 34 University System of Georgia institutions—faced an 8 percent budget cut. In spite of these challenges, Tech proudly lays claim to numerous superlatives from the previous year, from its people, community and research to its commitment to sustainability and accolades.

A new year has begun, and—as is tradition—the Whistle presents an overview of the top stories from the past year. But, some traditions change. Starting with this issue, the Whistle will be printed in color. And, in the coming weeks, we will update the look, too.

In the meantime, enjoy the annual round-up, which is by no means a comprehensive list. Did we miss something? Feel free to drop us a line at editor@comm.gatech.edu.

The year in pictures

Above: Center for Music Technology Director Gil Weinberg (left) examines School of Psychology Associate Professor Bruce Walker’s sonification research, which attempts to interpret aquariums and other exhibit-driven facilities for the visually impaired. Graduates leave cutouts for President G. Wayne Clough at his final commencement as Tech President.

Below: Tech’s band marches in the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade; Associate Professor Ayanna Howard works with a SnoMote, designed to gather data in icy environments; the Student Center Food Court goes trayless, saving water and resources.
"I would say that Georgia Tech students, whether they are undergrads or MBAs, have the reputation of being very hardworking problem solvers. They typically don’t have that stereotypical MBA attitude, and they’re willing to get in and get their hands dirty even if they’re not engineers. We try to teach students how to think like engineers, teaching them how to pay attention to detail and how to be problem solvers."

— MBA Admissions Director Paula Wilson when asked what type of person would fit into the College of Management’s MBA program. (BusinessWeek)
People

Sustainability

Packing and Transportation offers a variety of commuting assistance alternatives, including access to carpools, mass transit, gas cards, monthly transit passes and reduced campus parking fees.

The Institute's Green Cleaning program is recognized nationally by the U.S. Green Cleaning Council and the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.

The Tech community celebrated its commitment to environmental awareness and campus sustainability with Think Green Week, which culminates in the 11th annual Earth Day Celebration, themed “Take Action: Code Green.”

Tommy Little, manager of Building Services in Facilities, received the Environmental Leadership Award at Tech’s 2008 Earth Day celebration. School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Assistant Professor Kim Cobb instructed students in her interdisciplinary Honors Program course, Energy, the Environment and Society. The class introduced a semester-long reduction challenge, encouraging students to reduce carbon emissions in their own lives or affecting change elsewhere.

Tech was one of 11 universities to receive a top score of 99 for green efforts from the Princeton Review.

Tech’s Office of Capital Planning and Space Management registered eight upcoming campus projects with the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) to pursue Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification.


The Sustainable Endowment Institute awarded Georgia Tech an overall grade of “B” on its 2009 College Sustainability Report Card of 300 leading schools. Up from a “C” given the previous year, the grade moves Tech into the Campus Sustainability Leader category.

Georgia Tech won the National Recycling Coalition’s “Outstanding College or University Program” annual award at the organization’s annual Congress & Expo. The Arbor Day Foundation designated Tech a Tree Campus USA in November.

Construction project manager Steven Johnson (above) and utilities analyst Susan Wardrop coordinate a network of volunteers who keep feral cats on campus at a sustainable level.

Price Award for Best Book in Science and Technology Politics for his book, “Innovation and the State: Political Choice and Strategies for Growth in Israel, Taiwan and Ireland.”

Sam Nunn School of International Affairs Assistant Professor Margaret E. Kosat was a lead author of the “WMD Terror Report Card,” which graded the government’s performance in preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

The U.S. Department of State selected Electrical and Computer Engineering Professor Robert Butera as one of seven Jefferson Science Fellows for 2008-2009. Since the program’s inception in 2003, Butera is Georgia Tech’s first professor chosen as a Fellow.

Tech employees Ruthie Back and Dot Whitaker were honored for 50 years of service to the Institute.

The Carnegie Foundation and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) named Sam Nunn School of International Affairs Associate Professor Kirk Bowman a state winner in its U.S. Professors of the Year Awards Program.

The National Association of College Auxiliary Services named Georgia Tech Auxiliary Services Associate Vice President Rosalind R. Meyers recipient of the Robert P. Newman Award for Distinguished Service.

Tech named former John L. and Genevieve H. McCoin Chair of Engineering at Pann State Vigar Yang as chair of the Daniel Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering. Professor Robert Lowery retired after 15 years as chair.

School of Chemistry and Biochemistry Professor David Collins and School of Mathematics Professor Doron Lubinsky were named Echola Faculty Teaching Award winners for 2008.

Steven G. Swant, right, was named executive vice president for Administration and Finance when Robert K. Thompson retired in April 1. Thompson worked 40 years in higher education.

Vice Provost for International Initiatives Steve McLaughlin traveled with Gov. Sonny Perdue and a delegation from Georgia to establish an economic development office in Beijing for the state of Georgia.

Tech named Nelson C. Baker vice provost for Distance Learning and Professional Education (DLPE). He served as interim vice provost following Professor William Wayner’s appointment as chair of the Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering.

Tech employee Arthur Hughes, retired from active military service, selected Georgia 13th District U.S. Rep. David Scott to include Father’s Day in the U.S. flag code.

College of Computing Distinguished Professor Richard A. Dakhdil stepped down as dean in November. Distinguished Professor in Interactive Computing James Foley was named interim dean.

The Fulbright Program named Institute of Paper Science and Technology Sustainability Manager Cindy Jackson received the American Forest & Paper Association’s College & University Recycling Award. Tech was the sole winner for the College and University group.

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Research

DETECT, a result of Georgia Tech and Emory University research, gives individuals a roughly 10-minute test designed to gauge functions that, when impaired are associated with the earliest stages of Alzheimer’s disease.

Tech will offer the nation’s first interdisciplinary doctoral degree in robotics, involving the schools of Mechanical Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Aerospace Engineering and the College of Computing.

Georgia Tech Research Institute researchers developed a sensor system, worn in the pockets of a vest, that continuously monitors the air around persons prone to asthma attacks.

Using tiny gold particles embedded with dyes, researchers at the Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering identified tumors under the skin of a living animal, which may allow doctors to detect and diagnose cancer earlier and less invasively.

The Institute’s High Tech Indicators study suggests China may soon rival the United States as the principal driver of the world’s economy.

Researchers at Tech and the University of Kentucky demonstrate that patches coated on one side with microscopic needles can deliver clinically relevant doses of a drug that normally cannot pass through the skin.

Tech created the Integrative BiSys Institute to explore new technologies and methods to collect and analyze biological information in order to form a more complete picture of how life works and how the environment affects living things.

The Georgia Tech Research Institute’s Huntsville Research Laboratory celebrated three decades of research at Redstone Arsenal.

Combining the skills of engineering and medical and biological sciences, the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering at Georgia Tech and Emory University (BME) celebrated its 10th anniversary in April.

Tech researchers developed a liquid rocket engine simulator and imaging techniques that can help identify the cause of explosive sound waves and bring scientists a little closer to understanding and preventing them.

College of Sciences Dean Paul Houston appointed former chair of the School of Chemistry and Biochemistry Thomas Orlando to help organize the college’s efforts in Institute-wide energy research.

Institute researchers developed models to show how a flu pandemic would spread.

The new Georgia Tech Laboratory for New Electronic Materials will focus its efforts on the development of new materials to serve as the successors to silicon in the semiconductor industry.

In October, Tech launched the new Center for Music Technology with more than 20 researchers from the arts, sciences and engineering.

For more on groundbreaking research occurring at Georgia Tech, visit www.gatech.edu/newsroom.

Automobiles/Motorcycles

2001 Toyota Camry, 114K miles, good cond. $4,500. Call 770-453-4027 or e-mail salt6@mail.gatech.edu.

Real Estate/Roommates

For rent: 2 BR/1BA renovated duplex in Grant Park. Central heat/air, washer/dryer, dish-washer & microwave, fenced back yard. Less than 4 miles from campus, convenient to MARTA. Pets OK. $750/mo. (incl. water & yard maint.). Call: 404-806-6096.

320 sq. ft. in beautifully renovated office condo in a Neil Reid building in Poncey-Highland. Northern light, shared kitchen, dedicated parking space. Clean wide-lighted space for $800 per month; call 404-374-4760 or e-mail lucie.andre@coa.gatech.edu.

For rent: 3BR/2.5BA in Avondale Estates on cul-de-sac. Near 1-285, Hwy 78 and MARTA. Close to Decatur, Emory, CDC. Washer/dryer included; private deck; fireplace. Pets welcome. $1,550/month. Call Clare at 404-377-9550.

For rent: 1BR/1BA, 945 sq. ft. on Peachtree St. at 6th. Renovated in 2002; walk to Tech, Publix, MARTA, Tech Square. 4th floor, HW floors, tile kitchen & bath, granite. $355 application fee, 1 mo. security deposit. Call 404-553-5888 or e-mail Ralph at ralphp8@gmail.com. Visit www.condo.com/PropertyDetails.aspx?ID=5087500.

For Lease: Ideal for visiting professor or grad student. On bus route to Tech, charming, fully furnished house for short-term lease (6-12 months) starting Jan. 2009. 2BR/2BA, 2 dens, living room, dining room, kitchen, fenced back yard. Please call 404-292-4990.

Furniture

Cherry wood dinette set.
Table and 4 chairs. Chairs have beige padded bottoms. Light oak floor. $45. 3 stone texture coffee table, end table bottoms: need 2 glass top replacements. $125. 2 gold lamps/shades: $40. Black bar stool: $15. E-mail deltimo4u@hotmail.com.

8-foot, light oak Brunswick pool table with protective covers, racks, cues and balls. The table is in perfect condition. The buyer is responsible for moving/dismantling the table. $1,100, cash only. E-mail Tanah at tanah18@gatech.edu.

Miscellaneous

Four tickets needed for the Georgia Tech/Duke basketball game on Jan. 14. E-mail albertsbeffer@earthlink.net.

Metropolitan bar tool seven-piece set, never used. 10/10 stainless. A Crate & Barrel exclusive. Set includes bar knife, strainer, double jigger, corckscrew, ice tongs, bottle/can opener, and mixing spoon. Originally $35, will sell for $12. E-mail troywhyte@coa.gatech.edu for more info.

Pearl 7-piece drum set for sale. Best offer ($500 min.). Call Desal at 404-551-7882 or 678-862-9258 or e-mail vlbhadesa@hotmail.com.

More ads are available at www.autosite.gatech.edu. Ads appear and run for three weeks in the order in which they are received. E-mail submissions to editor@comm.gatech.edu.