Winter Brings Construction on Campus

When students, faculty and staff return from winter break next month, those accustomed to walking certain routes across campus may find the need to get creative with their commute.

Due to a confluence of events, several construction projects located in the center of campus are scheduled to occur simultaneously. As a result, some of the primary paths for moving between east and west campus will be temporarily shut down. The biggest lane, of course, is Skiles Walkway, a 30-foot-wide corridor that provides the most direct access between the Library and the Student Center. In anticipation of this, crews have been working to create an alternate path on the opposite side of the Skiles Building, which will tie in with existing sidewalks to shuttle pedestrians across campus.

The administration made the decision to proceed with these construction projects at once in an effort to minimize the duration of the inconvenience to campus. “It’s not going to be pain free, but we’re working to make sure the impact on campus is as painless as possible,” said John Duconge, project manager in Facilities Design and Construction. “We have a large group of stakeholders in close communication so that concerns surrounding public safety, accessibility and space allocation are addressed in advance.”

The following is a detailed description of each project:

Skiles Walkway will be one of the areas impacted by the construction projects in the center of campus. The walkway will be closed to pedestrian traffic from the semester break through August 2011.

Steam Line Replacement, Phase I

WHAT IT WILL ACCOMPLISH: The current steam line is nearly 100 years old and is being replaced for operational and efficiency reasons. Phase one will

PROJECTS, continued on page 3

A Holiday Reading List to Help Energize Your Teaching

Once exams are over, it can be very tempting to swear off planning next semester’s classes until January. But, this is the ideal time to reflect on what worked and did not — and to read up on teaching and learning strategies, according to Joyce Weinsheimer, associate director of the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning. “This is the perfect time to pick up a book,” she said. “Rather than just think on our own, we can connect with an author who is thinking about the same issue, and who has spent a lot more time delving into the topic than we will ever have available.”

Read on to find out which five books Weinsheimer recommends for energizing your teaching.

• “How Learning Works: Seven Research-Based Principles for Smart Teaching,” by Susan A. Ambrose, Michael W. Bridges, Michele DiPietro and Marsha C. Lovett. Each chapter begins with stories of instances where students overestimate their prior knowledge, for example, or hold misconceptions that actively interfere with their ability to learn new material. Weinsheimer said. Chapters then focus on principles of learning at work in the situations mentioned, what research says about the principles and suggested strategies to improve student learning in courses.

READINGS, continued on page 3

OpenStudy Fosters Worldwide Study Group

Online courses are wonderful because they are easily accessible. For example, you take a professor interested in teaching computer science and set her up with hundreds or thousands of students across the globe who want to learn. Except there’s one problem. “What happens when the students need help? Who can they turn to?” said Ashwin Ram, associate professor in the College of Computing. In 2007, Ram teamed up with his wife, Preetha Ram, associate dean for pre-health and science education at Emory University.
Institute

Tech Employees Share Holiday Traditions

In the last issue, we asked you to share your holiday traditions. Here’s what your colleagues said:

On New Year’s Eve, my husband and I eat dinner at our house and play cards with two other couples.
—Melissa C. Moore, Auxiliary Services

As a historian, I like to review what happened in the past year and to give perspective on the year to come, either as an individual or as a nation, or both.
—Hanchao Lu, History, Technology and Society

I am part of a team of around nine who drive northwest from Atlanta to Estancia de Animos, Mexico (36 hours, including the border stop) to deliver the bags from SOAR Ministries Angel Bag Project.
—Melinda Wilson, Mechanical Engineering

I confirm that a desk exists beneath the layers of stuff that get deposited in my office each semester. Realizing that “this was the semester that was” always makes me smile.
—Bill Koros, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

When we sit down for holiday dinners, we say a prayer and go around the table and call out the names of our heroes and “sheroes.” I hope this teaches my 7-year-old son to appreciate those who came before us and made our lives possible.
—Sheryl Taylor, Biomedical Engineering

On Christmas Eve, we put on pajamas, jump in the car, grab a milkshake from Dairy Queen and ride around looking at lights.
—Alison M. Kaiser, Graduate Studies

My wife is an amazing cook, but I make the holiday chocolate chip cookies — multiple batches. Then, I face the moral dilemma of deciding how many to mail to distant family.
—Richard Barbe, Public Policy

My father loves music and always blasts holiday music from the R&B/soul greats. Waking up to the Temptations, Donny Hathaway and the O’Jays on Christmas morning is the best.
—Nicole Stephens, Human Resources

Each year, the Women’s Resource Center adopts a family headed by a grandparent raising her grandchildren. Many contribute to this worthwhile initiative, and it is definitely the highlight of my December season.
—Colleen Riggle, Women’s Resource Center

Nominations Sought for Next Engineering Dean

Regents’ Professor Mostafa El-Sayed, chair of the search committee to select Tech’s next dean of the College of Engineering, has announced an open call for recommendations and nominations to lead the Institute’s largest academic unit. Visit the following website for more information:

www.provost.gatech.edu/engineering

Update: Job Classification, Compensation System Timeline Announced

On Jan. 1, 2011, Tech will move to a new job classification and compensation system for classified staff.

In order to establish consistency across the Institute and provide a better foundation for recruiting, performance management and career development, classified staff will soon have: updated and online job descriptions, new job grades based on job type and salary structures that reflect the job function.

Here is the updated implementation timeline:

January 2011: New job descriptions, compensation policies and job structures will be available online at www.ohr.gatech.edu/compensation. Training sessions will be offered to managers on the new compensation policies and system.

April 2011: All classified staff members will move to a new structure, title and grade. Employees will receive information about individual changes from their department management.

For a more comprehensive listing of events updated daily, visit www.gatech.edu/calendar.
alumni, and entrepreneur Phil Hill to create OpenStudy.

OpenStudy is an online system that links students from around the world with each other in real time, so they can get help at any time — day or night. “We want to make the entire world your study group,” Ram said.

OpenStudy debuted this August and already has more than 11,000 users from 151 countries, with a particularly large presence in the United States, China and Brazil. The service is free, and all a user has to do is sign up and connect with a study group that covers their topics of interest.

But why would people bother answering others’ questions? “We’ve found that people get significant gratification from helping people right now,” Hill said.

“We’ve seen some fantastic examples of students connecting and helping each other, such as a student from Los Angeles being helped with chemistry by a student from Istanbul, Turkey,” Ram added.

Currently, about 90 percent of the questions posed on OpenStudy are answered, and each question asked receives input from an average of 4.5 other students. OpenStudy has more than 350 study groups that users can join, such as AP History, Natural Language@Georgia Tech or Emory Biology.

http://openstudy.com

CLASSIFIEDS

AUTOMOBILES/ MOTORCYCLES

2000 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo, Gray, 165K miles. Kelly Blue Book valued at $4,600, asking $4,200 OBO. Beautiful car that you must see to appreciate. E-mail sandysong07@yahoo.com.

2001 Acura Accord EX Coupe, Gold with tan leather. Automatic. Meticulously maintained by Honda Dealership, 181,000 miles. $4,200. Original owner. E-mail january15@bellsouth.net.

REAL ESTATE/ ROOMMATES

Buckhead condominium 1BR/1BA with balcony (536 sq ft), 16th floor. Additional storage available. Immediate access to GA-400. Short walk to Buckhead MARTA and Terminus. Close to malls. Private parking, hardwood floor, four-corner windows, stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, concierge, fitness center, pool, spa, private lounge, wine cellar and valet. Available Jan. 1, $1,160/month. E-mail jennifer.brown@isye.gatech.edu.

3BR/2.5 BA townhome in Smyrna, 9 miles from Tech. Two-level, end unit, two-car garage, Nicely landscaped with pool. New flooring and stainless steel appliances. Water, trash and landscaping included in rent. E-mail frantastic483@gmail.com.

Tybee Island, Georgia. Beach cottage for rent. 1BR/1BA with additional shower. Sleeps eight. Family owned. Located three blocks from the beach. Ground level and pet friendly. For information and rates, go to www.vrbo.com/317979.


MOTORCYCLES

2001 Acura Accord EX Coupe. Gold with tan leather. Automatic. Meticulously maintained by Honda Dealership, 181,000 miles. Kelly Blue Book valued at $4,600, asking $4,200 OBO. Beautiful car that you must see to appreciate. E-mail sandysong07@yahoo.com.

2000 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo, Gray, 165K miles. Kelly Blue Book valued at $4,600, asking $4,200 OBO. Beautiful car that you must see to appreciate. E-mail sandysong07@yahoo.com.

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www.openstudy.com
Tech Campus is Central to Advisor’s Life

Most of us commute to campus from our homes and leave it behind at 5 p.m., but not Troy Whyte. The Georgia Tech campus is a part of his everyday life.

“I live on Marietta Street, within walking distance to campus — so I walk to work,” said the College of Architecture academic advisor. “And I’ll frequently head over to Tech Square for dinner.”

Whyte’s connection to campus isn’t anything new. He earned a bachelor’s degree from the College of Management in 1997.

With a little help from a friend who worked in the College of Architecture, Whyte landed a temporary position in the Industrial Design program about a month after graduating. A little more than a month later, he was offered a position as an academic advisor, where he’s been ever since.

Recently, The Whistle sat down with Whyte to learn more about him and his time at Tech. Here’s what we learned.

What does your job entail?
I advise 190 undergraduate and graduate students and ensure they stay on track for graduation. Generally, I start working consistently with most undergraduate students during their sophomore year, when we’ve figured out what aspect of the designed and built environment they want to pursue.

Because our school is small, I also support our faculty. For example, I might be asked to answer questions related to everything from Institute policies regarding dealing with a student transgression of the Honor Code to the Institute’s catering policy — it just varies.

What do you enjoy most and least about your job?
I enjoy working with the faculty, because I can tell that they are passionate about their work, and with the students, because they are really engaging. The challenge in this job is that since the school is small, I wear many hats. Thankfully, I can multitask pretty well.

What piece of technology could you not live without?
My iPhone. I even amazed myself by waiting in line from 5:40 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. to pick it up from the Apple store the day it was released. Needless to say, I really bonded with the other people in line.

Tell me something surprising about yourself.
I’m a science fiction junkie and love reading a good sci-fi novel.

What is your favorite place to visit in the city on the weekend?
Centennial or Piedmont Park. But, Piedmont Park is better for people watching.

If you weren’t in your current line of work, what would you be doing?
With my love of history and reading and research, I think I would like to have become a professor of Management in the College of Business.

CONNECTION

The 1929 Rose Bowl and Riegels Famous Play

In each issue, we’re partnering with the Georgia Tech Alumni Magazine to highlight a piece of Tech history. This issue’s topic: the 1929 Rose Bowl and Roy Riegels famous football play.

The following excerpt is number 19 on the list “125 Pieces of Management in Georgia Tech Alumni Magazine to highlight a piece of Tech history.”

In the September/October 2010 issue of Georgia Tech Alumni Magazine:

Peer closely at the priceless Rose Bowl play chart in the archives to see what would become one of the most famous plays in football history documented in blue pencil: Riegels recovers, runs the wrong way.

When Tech jumbled during the Jan. 1, 1929, Rose Bowl, California’s Roy Riegels recovered the ball, spun around and headed for the goal 54 yards away. Unfortunately for Riegels, he was running toward Tech’s goal. He realized his mistake too late and was tackled on the one-yard line. The wrong way run ultimately cost California the game, as Tech won 8-7.

In the 1970s, when the 1928 team was inducted into the Georgia Tech Sports Hall of Fame, Riegels was made an honorary member of the Lettermen’s Club.

Memorial Service Set for Dec. 16

A much loved and respected friend of the Tech community was lost when W. Marshall Leach Jr. died on Nov. 20 at the age of 70. A campus memorial service for Leach will be held on Dec. 16 at 3 p.m. in room 1116 of the Marcus Nanotechnology Building.

Shortly after graduating with his doctorate from the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) in 1972, Leach joined the ECE faculty and taught analog electronics, audio engineering, electroacoustics, electromagnetics and instrumentation courses to thousands of students during his 38-year career.

www.ece.gatech.edu

ASK AWAY...

What is the white powder being used to insulate the steam pipes behind Skiles (i.e., the area around the steam pipes that go between the tin building and Skiles and toward the new CULC building)? We are breathing it, and it’s settling on our parked cars. Is it safe?

According to Scott Jones, director of design and construction at Tech, most of what you see is steam. However, there is dust associated with the insulation, which is used to provide thermal containment for the steam lines. The dust ensures it doesn’t stick together and surrounds the pipes as it is poured in. (The insulation provides a two-year payback on energy savings.)

The dust harmless and won’t hurt cars. As for people, it’s not any more harmful than inhaling other kinds of dust, Jones added. “Every effort is made to minimize airborne dust from this and all other construction activities,” he said.

If you have a Tech-related question that you’d like answered, e-mail it to editor@comm.gatech.edu

MISCELLANEOUS

Interested in carpooling? Looking for a ride from Stileson Road/Mars Hill Road in the Hodgescience Development. Working hours 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., flexible hours 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. E-mail to KMuru@comp.gatech.edu.

Maytag Legacy Series washer and dryer. Everything you need is included to hook you right up and start using these units! No scratches or dents. $650. Call 404-939-1048.

Like new, 3-piece Macy’s chocolate microsuede queen sleeper sofa, chair and storage ottoman. Sleeper bed has never been slept on $750. Call 404-939-1048.

Heavy-duty saivel TV stand for both CRT and flat panel TV’s. Can hold more than one flat screen, has two sets of shelves for stereos/DVR/FVR/VCX components with glass doors and side shelves available for DVD/ VHS, some scratches and koffie from normal wear. Call 404-939-1048.

CLASSIFIEDS

15R1/15B A condo with office in Sandy Springs. Close to both I-285 and GA-400, 15 minutes to Tech, hardwood floors, granite counter tops, master bath, 2 covered parking spots, storage space, senior able, 4 floor of 4 story building, pool and workout room, $1,000/mo., plus utilities. Call 404-210-9092.

Exceptionally located, professionally decorated/landscaped house near Northside/St. Joseph’s Hospital complex, 4BR/3BA, library/office, gourmet kitchen, great entertainment space. Full basement $2,600/mo., $566K sale price. Contact perpagnac6@gmail.com or marla.pargnac@bellsouth.net or 404-275-5640.

Very cool 2BR/1BA, $1,150 utilities included. End unit in quiet concrete building, hardwood parquet floors, gated, tennis courts and pool. Glazed porch doubles as separate dining area or office. Located very close to Tech. Contact jules.klein@roca.gatech.edu or 404-894-1883.


3BR/2.5BA townhouse for rent with fenced backyard. $1,200/month. For additional info and contact numbers, go to tinyurl.com/3ygg3b.

FURNITURE/APPLIANCES

Leather sofa and love seat. Set is less than 2 years old, smoke free/pet free environment. $750 (paid or money order only) or best offer. Must pick up, located in Cumberland Mall area. E-mail Jennifer jacobs6@mgmt.gatech.edu.

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Eureka “The Boss” SmartVac vacuum. Top-rated by Consumer Reports. Carpet and floor cleaner. New, 18 months old. $50 OBO. Call 404-894-1390 or e-mail bruce.hensley@library.gatech.edu.

Free yellow jacket nest removal. Nests to free. $25. Call 404-894-1390 or e-mail bruce.hensley@library.gatech.edu.

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