Efficiency rewarded

Stimulus grant to help fund energy-efficiency solutions lab

A new Georgia Tech laboratory building designed to research energy efficiency will itself become a study in sustainability.

The U.S. Commerce Department’s National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) on Jan. 8 awarded the Georgia Tech Research Corporation $11.6 million to construct the Carbon-Neutral Energy Solutions Laboratory (C-NES). With a total budget of $23.3 million, the 45,000-square-foot facility will house several energy research efforts.

From the design and construction to daily operation, Capital Planning and Space Management intends for the laboratory to achieve carbon neutrality with net-zero site energy use, defined as zero net energy consumption and zero carbon emissions annually.

By effectively using several energy-saving designs—including a full photovoltaic array—the facility can harvest energy on-site and realize carbon neutrality without purchasing carbon offset credits, according to Howard Wertheimer, director of Capital Planning and Space Management.

The project is targeting a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum certification, exceeding the Gold certification targeted by all new building construction on Tech’s campus.

The research focus of the facility will be sustainable energy solutions, including high-efficiency combustion engines, biomass gasification kinetics, biochemical-enzymatic conversion of biomass materials, and capture of carbon dioxide from power plants and combustion engines.

The lab will be located at the North Avenue Research Area (NARA), in the same campus as the Combustion Lab, Structures Lab and Food Processing Technology Building.

“When complete, this facility will be the most sustainably designed and constructed building at Georgia Tech, and one of the most sustainably designed research facilities in the country,” Wertheimer said. The project has already been contracted with a design-build team. HDR CUH2A, a Princeton, New Jersey–based architectural firm, leads the design, and Gilbane Construction leads the construction activities. Target completion date is set for spring 2011.

The schematic design was completed prior to the initial NIST announcement.

Streamlining resources

Administration and Finance division updates its organizational structure

With the new year, Executive Vice President for Administration and Finance Steven Swant has announced the first quarter of 2010 will see some changes to realign existing functions to better support the Institute’s mission and strategic direction.

As a first step, a national search was initiated on Jan. 8 to fill the currently open position of the senior vice president for Administration and Finance. Previously held and presently administered by Swant, this position has an expanded scope and will oversee the Institute’s Office of Financial Services, Real Estate Development and the Institute Strategic Resource Management Office (ISRM).

Within this framework, Institute Budget and Planning, Institutional Research and Planning, Capital Planning and Space Management, Environmental Stewardship and Organizational Development will be organized into ISRM, enabling their more efficient support of the Office of the President.

With this change, the remaining Administration and Finance units also will have a new structure, mostly in the chain of reporting relationships, to better align offices with the Institute’s overall mission of teaching, research and economic development.

“The structure and approach reflects the importance of strategy, people, partnerships and technology to achieving this mission,” Swant said. “This realignment will allow us to better focus on providing technology.”

National defense

Tech VP Cross appointed to serve on Defense Science Board

The Department of Defense has named Georgia Tech Vice President and Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) Director Stephen E. Cross one of 39 new appointees to the Defense Science Board.

Considered leaders and experts in engineering, science and technology as applied to the defense and military services fields, board members serve on task forces and provide informed opinions and input on scientific, technical, manufacturing, acquisition processes and related matters to department administrators. Nominated by Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates, Cross will serve as a senior vice president for Administration and Finance division in the new structure.

The New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players present “The Pirates of Penzance,” at 8 p.m. in the Ferst Center for the Arts. Tickets are $20, $25.60 and $33.60 with subscription. Calendar continues on page 2.

AUF, continued on page 3.

C-NES, continued on page 3.

EVENTS

January 20
The Ferst Center for the Arts will hold its one-day sale for Georgia Tech staff and faculty at the Student Center Box Office from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Employees must show a valid BuzzCard to receive a discount.

www.ferstcenter.gatech.edu

January 21
The Library and Information Center will show “When a House is Not a Home,” a half-hour documentary on how residents in Atlanta’s West End reclaimed their community. The film will be shown in the Library East Commons from 11 a.m. to noon, followed by a Q&A.

www.librarycommons.gatech.edu

January 23
The New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players present “The Pirates of Penzance,” at 8 p.m. in the Ferst Center for the Arts. Tickets are $20, $25.60 and $33.60 with subscription.

www.ferstcenter.gatech.edu

CROSS, continued on page 2
January 24
The First Center for the Arts presents Las Bellezas Teatinas de Monte Carlo, at 7 p.m. Tickets are $32 and $42 ($25.60 and $33.60 with subscription). www.ferncenter.gatech.edu

January 26
The Library and Information Center presents the short film, “Conventional Dress,” made by School of Literature, Communication and Culture Assistant Professor Celia Pearce and her students, from 11 a.m. to noon in the Library East Commons. A Q&A with the filmmakers follows the screening. www.librarycommons.gatech.edu

January 31
Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy: Masters of the Fiddle will play at the First Center for the Arts at 5 p.m. Tickets are $20, $30 and $40 ($20, $34 and $32 with subscription). www.ferncenter.gatech.edu

February 5
Poetry at Tech welcomes Ginger Murchison, Robert Perry Ivey and Bruce McElver, 7 p.m. at the Clary Theater in the Student Success Center. www.poetry.gatech.edu

CONFERENCES AND LECTURES

January 19
The College of Architecture National Science Foundation ADVANCE Program presents a gender and communication workshop, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Architecture Library. www.cee.gatech.edu

January 21
Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts Dean finalist Dorothy Sprecher will meet the Tech community from 11 a.m. to noon in the Alumni House. www.provest.gatech.edu

January 27
The Clean Energy Speaker Series welcomes three guest speakers, including Public Policy Professor Marilyn Brown, to “Low Hanging Fruit: Energy Efficiency in the Southeast,” from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Hodges room of the Centennial Library. www.ece.gatech.edu

January 28
The European Union Center at Georgia Tech presents “The European-American Agenda,” from 11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in the

Calendar continues on page 3
President Barack Obama has appointed Howard Schmidt, adjunct faculty member in the Georgia Tech Information Security Center (GTISC) in the College of Computing, as the new White House cybersecurity coordinator.

“Howard is one of the world’s leading authorities on computer security, with some 40 years of experience in government, business and law enforcement,” said John Brennan, assistant to the president for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism, in an e-mail announcing the appointment last month. “Howard will have regular access to lectures on security policies and strategies. Schmidt previously served as former chief security strategist for the U.S. CERT Partners Program and former special advisor to the White House for Cyberspace Security under President George W. Bush. He joined Tech in 2008 to work with GTISC to improve the state of information security by lending his vast knowledge and expertise in this growing technological area.

While Swant currently has 12 direct reports, the realignment streamlines this to seven reporting positions. In addition to the senior vice president, the others include vice president of Campus Services, associate vice president of Facilities, associate vice president of Information Technology and the associate vice president over enterprise risk management and public safety groups. These join the senior director of Special Projects in Information Technology and the assistant vice president of Administration and Finance.

Administration and Finance offices and departments will be realigned according to these categories. Auxiliary Services, Business Services and Human Resources, for example, will report to the vice president of Campus Services. Rosalind Meyers, formerly the associate vice president for Auxiliary Services, has been named to this position. A search will begin in the spring for an associate vice president candidate for the enterprise risk management and public safety group.

“Our goal is to create more flexibility and allow for more attention on key areas identified by the study as opportunities for growth and investment,” Swant said. These changes will be implemented throughout the first quarter of 2010. The Administration and Finance Web page will be updated in the coming weeks to provide more information.

For more information
www.admin-fin.gatech.edu
Candlelight vigil held for Haiti

Students faculty and staff attended a candlelight vigil for victims of the earthquake in Haiti at the campanile last Thursday evening. Donations were collected, and attendees remembered those who were lost. It was the worst earthquake to hit the small, island nation in more than 200 years. In the coming days, Georgia Tech will provide more information on how the campus community can help those in Haiti. www.gatech.edu/haiti