Freshman Class Sets Records in Diversity, Academics

KRISTEN BAILEY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Today, 3,000 of the brightest minds from around the world begin the next phase of their lives as Yellow Jackets.

This year’s freshman class is record-setting in its diversity and academic prestige. The group is 41 percent female — the first class to ever top 40 percent. This class also has 35 percent more African-Americans than last year, and its academic profile — which includes SAT scores and number of college-level classes taken — is the best a class has ever been.

“It’s a testament to Tech’s amazing place in the college landscape,” said Rick Clark, director of Undergraduate Admission. “Admission has a small part in it, but this class is something all of Georgia Tech should be really proud of.”

The average SAT range for this class is 2060-2250, and 94 percent have taken at least AP Calculus or an equivalent course. The class represents 64 countries, 49 states, 86 Georgia counties, and more than 1,400 high schools.

This year in recruiting undergraduates, admission staff did more personal and tailored outreach to many students and engaged more people on campus in the process. Faculty members participated in admission committee meetings to provide input on decisions, and alumni from around the country met with prospective students throughout the year to talk with them about coming to Georgia Tech. Given Georgia Tech’s focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, and its high rankings across all disciplines, it’s not a hard sell.

“The Institute is so well-positioned,” Clark said. “Students want to be here, and this freshman class is an indicator that Tech is clearly vital in creating the next generation of entrepreneurs, researchers, and leaders for our nation and workforce.”

One goal this year was to diversify the class with regard to intended majors. The biggest gain in this area was in the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts, which saw an increase of 50 percent over last year.

This year’s group includes the first 1,400 high schools.

RAT CAPS TURN 100

As new students start their careers on campus this week, they arrive at a time when traditions continue to be prevalent in Institute culture. The RAT Cap turned 100 this year, and students once again received their caps and began to fill them out at New Student Convocation on Sunday. Learn more about the history of the cap at www.c.gatech.edu/ratcaps.

Gerber Takes Reins of GTRI

ROBERT NESMITH
GEORGIA TECH RESEARCH INSTITUTE

This month, Andrew Gerber flew south from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to take the role of director of the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) and senior vice president of Georgia Tech.

Gerber comes to Tech from MIT’s Lincoln Laboratory, where he served as associate head of the Air and Missile Defense Technology Division, responsible for

HOW A THESIS CAN CHANGE A CITY

It has become widely known that the Atlanta BeltLine was born out of a 1999 thesis by alumnus Ryan Gravel (inset), then a graduate student in the School of City and Regional Planning. Tech takes an in-depth look at how Gravel’s vision for an “emerald necklace” is coming to fruition around Atlanta, how it is impacting the city’s economy, and what’s still to come. Peruse the full interactive feature story at www.c.gatech.edu/beltline.
BOR Approves Professional Programs, Faculty Appointments

KRISTEN BALLEY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

In addition to approving health care benefit plans for 2016, the Board of Regents (BOR) also approved two professional degree programs, two endowed school chairs, and several faculty appointments for Georgia Tech at its August 12 meeting.

The BOR approved the establishment of a professional master’s degree program in manufacturing leadership, as well as one in sustainable electrical energy. The manufacturing leadership program is designed for those who hold a bachelor’s degree in science or engineering, have at least one year of working experience, and seek advancement to leadership positions in manufacturing. The sustainable electrical energy program is designed for working engineers in the electrical energy and power industry and will be cohort based.

Faculty
The Board also approved the establishment of two new faculty chairs: the William H. Harrison Chair in the School of Architecture, and the Garry BetsyV Foundation Chair and GRA Eminent Scholar in Cancer Nanotechnology in the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering. Scott Marble was approved to hold the Harrison Chair, and Ravindra Kane to hold the BetsyV Chair.

In addition to these two appointments, the following faculty appointments were also approved at the August 12 meeting:
- Vivek Ghosal, Mary S. and Richard B. Irmann Jr. Professorship in Economics
- Stanislav Emelianov, Joseph M. Pettit Chair and GRA Eminent Scholar in Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Ayanna Howard, Linda J. and Mark C. Smith Chair in Electrical and Computer Engineering

Facilities
As Tech looks toward the renovation of the Van Leer Building, the Board approved the appointment of BLDGS Inc., Atlanta, as the design firm for the Interdisciplinary Design Commons project. The project received a $3.2 million gift from Texas Instruments in April, and will include a new maker space and outdoor plaza for students of all majors and levels of study.

In addition, the Board voted to allow for Campus Services to lease space to the west of campus on Joseph E. Lowery Boulevard. The space will provide service and storage facilities for trade shops, vehicle parking, and vehicle maintenance, and will allow for existing space on 14th Street to instead be used for the Georgia Tech Manufacturing Institute and Boeing Research Center.

Benefits and Retirement
The BOR approved health care plans and premiums for 2016. All premiums will see a slight increase, though not as large as increases in recent years.

Changes were also made for University System of Georgia (USG) retirees over the age of 65. Medicare-eligible retirees age 65 and over and Medicare-eligible dependents age 65 and older will enroll in their supplemental health care coverage and receive the USG health care benefit in a new way in 2016. Medicare Part A and B will provide primary coverage the same as today. Supplemental coverage will be provided through the Aon Retiree Health Exchange, and USG will deposit income into a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) for retirees and/for dependents to use toward premiums and other eligible out-of-pocket health care expenses.

The BOR approved the USG HRA funding of $2,736 per year or $228 per month per 65 and older Medicare-eligible retiree and any 65 and older Medicare-eligible covered dependent(s). In order to receive the USG HRA funding, the retiree and/or dependent must be enrolled in coverage through the USG plan in 2015 and must purchase coverage through the Aon Retiree Health Exchange in 2016. To learn more, visit www.cc.gatech.edu/usgretiree, or attend an informational meeting on Friday, August 21, at 10 a.m. in the Student Center Ballroom.

GERBER, from page 1
programs in air and ballistic missile defense.

“I am thrilled and tremendously excited to have the opportunity to help shape what I believe is a very bright future for GTRI and Georgia Tech,” Gerber said. “Both are clearly on the rise, and I look forward to working with the entire GTRI and Georgia Tech community to perform the highest quality research for our government and industry sponsors, and to continue to build strong bonds among GTRI, Georgia Tech, and the local Atlanta community.”

Gerber joined the Lincoln Laboratory as a staff member in 1988. In 1991, he took an assignment at the Kwajalein Missile Range in the Marshall Islands, where he was responsible for space surveillance programs and later served as leader of the ALT AIR radar. He returned to Lincoln Laboratory in 1996 as assistant leader of the Air Defense Techniques Group, where he helped build the Laboratory’s Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense program.

In 1997, he became an Intergovernmental Personnel Act appointee with the Navy’s Program Executive Office for Theater Surface Combatants. In September 2001, he once again returned to the Laboratory as assistant head of the Sensor Systems Division and became head of the Sensor Systems Division in 2002. In 2004, he took up his most recent position as associate head of the Air and Missile Defense Technology Division.
As the fall semester kicks off, many campus construction projects are winding down.

In recent months, crews around campus have been busy building, refurbishing, and maintaining Georgia Tech’s campus in preparation for another year of activity. Facilities staff have been doing preventative maintenance on many buildings’ boilers. The Landscape Services group has been beautifying campus pathways by street sweeping, freshening crosswalks, and pressure washing sidewalks.

JOBS WELL DONE

In many places, ongoing construction is now complete:
• **Engineered Biosystems Building**  
  Construction is complete and researchers have moved in. An official dedication will take place Friday, September 11. The new facility also includes a second Highland Bakery location for campus.
• **Boggs Chemistry Building**  
  Laboratories on the second floor have been renovated and include new furniture and common spaces. A ribbon cutting will take place in September.
• **Glenn and Towers Residence Halls**  
  This two-year project that includes a new multiuse space and fitness area is now complete, and both buildings will be occupied for the fall semester.
• **Student Center Parking Lot**  
  The lot now includes more bike racks and better ADA accessibility.
• **Smithgall Student Services (Flag) Building**  
  The roof above all those flags needed replacement, and the project is now substantially complete.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Meanwhile, other projects continue to progress and will still be under construction this semester:
• **Harrison Square**  
  The work around Cherry Street, which includes new seating, improved pedestrian pathways, and better ADA accessibility, is expected to be complete by September.
• **Hinman Courtyard**  
  Construction here is also expected to be complete September 3.
• **Collins Family Gate**  
  This project at the southwest corner of Bobby Dodd Stadium includes new landscaping, pathways, and stairs leading up to the Tech Tower Lawn. The project will be substantially complete by September.
• **Atlantic Drive Steam Line Replacement**  
  Construction is still underway and is expected to be complete by the end of October.
• **Marcus Nanotechnology Building**  
  Construction on interior labs is about 35 percent complete, with the expectation of a January 2016 move-in.

MORE TO COME

Some projects on the horizon include:
• **Tech Tower Renovation**  
  The most iconic building on campus will undergo interior renovations this year, and occupants will begin to be relocated during the fall.
• **Library Renewal Project**  
  As the Library prepares to repurpose some of its space, personnel and materials will continue to move inside. No construction will begin until summer 2016.

For more comprehensive listing of events, or to add one of your own, visit calendar.gatech.edu
As a new year begins for both college students and younger ones, many parents will once again begin spending mornings packing lunches for their children.

As a parent and dietitian, Amber Johnson, nutritionist for Health Promotion and Dining Services, knows firsthand the challenges of packing healthy lunches and getting kids to eat them.

Johnson’s first advice, of course, is to cover all the basic food groups. A good lunch should include at least three of the following: protein, dairy, fruits/vegetables, and whole grains.

Lunch contents may also be dependent on when your child eats lunch.

“If lunch is at 10 a.m., a whole grain waffle with sunbutter or soybutter might be more acceptable than last night’s lasagna,” she said.

Packaging can throw a wrench in things for some — juice boxes or pre-packaged crackers or fruit gummies can be hard to open. A healthier, easier suggestion from Johnson is to cut up fruits and veggies and pack those instead, and a thermos of milk or water.

“For picky eaters, be sure to pair one of their favorite foods along with a newer food,” she suggests.

Finally, timing is everything. When students only have 20–30 minutes to eat, and spend much of it talking with friends, having the food cut in bite size pieces can encourage healthy intake — even for things such as sandwiches.

“To meal planning helps me so I won’t be stumped in the wee hours,” Johnson said. “Work with your dinner menu and what you already have around the house. I like to include a little treat, like fruit leather, every once in a while, too. Have fun with it!”

Katherine Drake, academic assistant in the Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering, taught in elementary schools for 13 years before coming to Georgia Tech. She found that healthy lunches were vital for student performance, even at a young age.

“If a child isn’t fed or if they’re hungry, or if they’ve just had a gigantic handful of M&Ms for lunch, it affects their performance,” she said.

“Food is one of the basic needs, and if they don’t have the food they need then they can’t perform at their highest level.”

— Ben Wright, College of Engineering, contributed to this story.

A DECADE AFTER KATRINA

After Hurricane Katrina made landfall in New Orleans on August 29, 2005, many refugees found their way to Atlanta — specifically Georgia Tech. Alexander Memorial Coliseum served as an American Red Cross shelter, and 275 students from Tulane University arrived at Tech’s Student Center on August 31. Many were able to make arrangements home, but international students faced additional challenges, since returning to their home countries could jeopardize the status of their student visas.

As part of the 10th anniversary of the storm, Georgia Tech partnered with the National Academy of Engineering to host a roundtable event on August 5 looking at whether American cities are ready for future disasters. Read more at www.c.gatech.edu/katrina-readiness and www.z.gatech.edu/katrina-readiness.