

**Annual Report
College of Sciences
2006-2007**

Summary.

Academic Year 2006-2007 was a time of leadership transition in the College of Sciences. In September, 2006, Dean Gary B. Schuster was appointed as Provost and Associate Dean E. Kent Barefield was appointed as Interim Dean. A successful search took place for Gary Schuster's replacement, resulting in the appointment of Paul L. Houston as Dean of Sciences in July, 2007.

A major facilities enhancement in the College of Sciences occurred at the beginning of Fall Semester, [2006](#), when the School of Chemistry and Biochemistry moved to new quarters in the Molecular Sciences and Engineering Building, which, at 272,700 square feet, is one of the largest buildings in the University System. In keeping with Georgia Tech's desire to support interdisciplinary scholarship, this building contains both education and research facilities, and houses faculty and students from two Colleges, Engineering and Sciences.

In Fiscal Year 2006-2007, the College of Sciences received \$42.2 million in new sponsored funds, slightly below the previous year's record amount of \$43.6 million. This represents about 11% of the sponsored research performed on campus. Undergraduate students majoring in the sciences continued to increase, with 1156 majors in 2006 compared with 1039 in 2005. Freshmen science majors likewise increased by more than 10% in 2006 to 283, and this trend is continuing in [2007](#). A majority of the undergraduates in the College are female, and this remains the case for new freshmen. Graduate enrollment in the College increased very slightly to 770 in 2006 from 768 in 2005. Nineteen new faculty joined the College of Sciences, for a net gain of 7. New appointments for AY 2007-8 totaled 13 for another net gain of 7, for a Fall, 2007, total of 182 faculty. These figures reflect a continuing deterioration in student-faculty ratios, whether with regard to all students, to undergraduates, or to science majors.

It is notable that new appointments involving the biosciences were made not only in the traditional units but also in the Schools of Physics and Mathematics, which launched an Applied & Biological Contemporary Mathematics Program. Interdepartmental seminars in the biosciences began running on a weekly basis and were well attended by faculty from several different units within the College of Sciences.

The Schools of Chemistry [& Biochemistry](#), Mathematics, and Physics worked with the College of Computing and the College of Engineering to design new

interdisciplinary graduate degree programs in Computational Science and Engineering, which will be launched in AY 2007-2008.

The College of Sciences has continued its outreach efforts in the state of Georgia through the Center for Education Integrating Science, Mathematics, and Computing (CEISMC). Notable are calculus courses offered at high schools through Distance Learning, the STEP Program, which places Georgia Tech students in high schools to help teach science and mathematics, and the GIFT Program, which brings high school teachers to the campus in summer research positions. Moreover, the School of Mathematics continues to host a Mathematics Competition for middle and high school students from Georgia and contiguous states.

Highlights.

- Robert Gregor, Chairman and Professor of the School of Applied Physiology was elected Fellow in the American Academy of Kinesiology and Physical Education.
- Chris Hovorka, an Academic Professional in the School of Applied Physiology was recently elected as a Fellow into the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists.
- Professor Mindy Millard-Stafford in Applied Physiology became President Elect of the American College of Sports Medicine.
- The School of Applied Physiology hired a new Chair to begin in Fall Semester, 2007, T. Richard Nichols, from Emory University.
- [Associate Professor Jung Choi in Biology was awarded the 2007 G. Eichholz Faculty Teaching Award.](#)
- Assistant Professor Kirill Lobachev in Biology was awarded the 2007 Sigma Xi Faculty Best Paper Award.
- [Assistant Professor Joshua Weitz in Biology received a CAREER Award at the Scientific Interface from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund.](#)
- Assistant Professor Soojin Yi in Biology received an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship [and the 2007 Sigma Xi Young Faculty Award.](#)
- The School of Biology's Center for the Study of Systems Biology completed its first year of operation.

- [Dr. Alfred Merrill, Professor, established a Mass Spectrometry Bio-Imaging Center.](#)
- The School of Biology was ranked #8 nationally for faculty scholarly productivity in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology by Academic Analytics.
- The School of Chemistry and Biochemistry moved its center of operations and most of its faculty to the new Molecular Sciences and Engineering Building.
- Professor Lawrence Bottomley in Chemistry was awarded the Outstanding Undergraduate Research Mentor Award from Georgia Tech.
- Professor Mostafa El Sayed in Chemistry was awarded the 2007 Georgia Tech Distinguished Professorship Award funded by the Class of 1934.
- Assistant Professor Facundo Fernandez in Chemistry received an NSF CAREER award and a Humbolt Fellowship.
- Assistant Professor Wendy Kelly in Chemistry received the Camille and Henry Dreyfus New Faculty Award.
- Professor Boris Mizaikoff in Chemistry was named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.
- Assistant Professor Kim Cobb in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences received an NSF CAREER award.
- Professors Judith Curry and Peter Webster in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences have testified before Congress and made presentations in the national media on global climate change.
- Assistant Professor Athanasios Nenes in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences received Georgia Tech's Sigma Xi Young Faculty Award
- Professor Peter Webster in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences received Georgia Tech's Outstanding Faculty Author Award and gave the Charney Lecture to the American Geophysical Union.
- The School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences was ranked #2 nationally in Geoscience by Science Watch for citation impact of published papers.
- Associate Professor Matthew Baker was selected for the 2007 CETL/BP Junior Faculty Teaching Excellence Award, and

Mathematics undergraduate George Ander Steele was awarded the 2007 Sigma Xi Best Undergraduate Research Award, under his supervision.

- Professor Evans Harrell in Mathematics was named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.
- Professor Wing Suet Li in Mathematics was named the GT/NSF Advance Professor for the College of Sciences.
- Professor Thomas Morley in Mathematics was awarded the Class of 1934 Award for Outstanding Innovative Use of Education Technology.
- Assistant Professor Haomin Zhou in Mathematics received an NSF CAREER award.
- The School of Mathematics was ranked #10 nationally for faculty scholarly productivity in Applied Mathematics by Academic Analytics.
- Assistant Professor Daniel Goldman in Physics received a CAREER Award at the Scientific Interface from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund.
- Physics Graduate students Stewart Jenkins (Advisor: Brien Kennedy) and Dzmitry Matsukevich (Advisor: Alex Kuzmich) won the 2007 Georgia Tech Sigma Xi Best Ph.D. Thesis Award.
- Professor Rick Trebino was named a Fellow of the American Physical Society.
- Professors Fredda Blanchard-Fields and Wendy Rogers were appointed chief editors of journals of the American Psychological Association.
- Professor Christopher Hertzog in the School of Psychology was elected President of Divison 20 (Aging) of American Psychological Association.
- Professor Ruth Kanfer in the School of Psychology received the 2007 Distinguished Scientific Contributions Award from the Society of Industrial and Organizational Psychology.
- Assistant Professor Bruce Walker in Psychology received an NSF CAREER award.