

BIOLOGY

Fall 2010



Welcome to the Fall 2010 edition of the School of Biology newsletter. Every Fall is filled with excitement and promise as we start a new academic year. This year is especially exhilarating because it is the 50th anniversary of Biology at Georgia Tech. Since its founding in 1960 with five microbiologists and radiation biologists from the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI), Biology has grown into the largest undergraduate major in the College of Sciences. In preparing this newsletter, we have contacted alumni and asked them to recount memories of their experiences in the School of Biology. As you will read, some are hilarious, others are

touching, and still others are inspiring. We also asked retired faculty to share what they are doing now and provide some pictures. We hope that you will enjoy these reminiscences about the good old days at Tech as we celebrate this important milestone for science at Georgia Tech. Furthermore, we hope that you will join us for the BioBash celebration Friday, October 8, homecoming weekend. See the last page for details.

The other exciting event this Fall is that we have initiated planning for a new Biology building to be built on the corner of Atlantic Avenue and 10th Street in the next 4 years. This will house up to 60 researchers, including most current faculty in the School of Biology, administrative offices, teaching labs for sophomore through senior courses, and some classrooms. It will enable us to continue to attract the very best faculty and to train students in state of the art labs for the challenges of the 21st century.

If you would like to help the School of Biology continue

to attract and retain the best quality students and faculty, please consider making a donation at <http://www.biology.gatech.edu/contribute/contribute.php>. Your support will substantially contribute to the professional development of students and faculty in the School of Biology and help us maintain the standard of excellence expected at Tech. If you would like to discuss specific ways to help the School, please call or email me and we can have a more detailed conversation about how you might contribute. Even though you have left Georgia Tech, we hope that you will continue to participate in the excitement of the discoveries happening everyday in the School of Biology.

Best wishes,

Professor Terry Snell
Interim Chair
School of Biology

Retired Faculty Quotes



E. Lloyd Dunn, Associate Professor Emeritus (CAPTDRDUNN@aol.com)

I retired from GT & the SOB in 2002 but still participated in the Pacific Study Abroad for two more years. Sue Bailey & I finally finished our house on Sapelo Island in 2008, and I now live in splendid isolation in our nearly sub-tropical paradise. I still play in the salt marshes and sand dunes on Sapelo and continue a little research, but mostly enjoy fishing, crabbing, bird-watching, car maintenance & repair, cooking, and entertaining visitors to the island. What I enjoyed most during my 24 years at GT was loading a van with students, field equipment and camping gear and taking students out of the lab and into the real biological world of marshes, swamps, coral reefs, deserts, mountains and as much in between as we could fit in. I would love to hear from any veterans of these field trips, and maybe we could catch-up on the beaches of Sapelo Island.

David Dusenbery, Professor Emeritus (ddusenbery@yahoo.com)



I retired in 2002. Staying in Atlanta, I started working on a book about the unfamiliar physics that influences various behaviors of microorganisms. My

main goal was to make the physics accessible to biology students and convince them that knowing some simple physics was useful to understanding a variety of problems in biology. After some misadventures with another publisher and unsympathetic

reviewers, I found a congenial reception at Harvard University Press, and they published *Living at Micro Scale* in 2009. While working on the book, I got some new ideas on why it is advantageous for gametes to specialize into eggs and sperm, and this resulted in a research paper and a chapter in a forthcoming book. In my free time, I've done a lot of hiking, and the regular exercise has helped the old body age better. My wife and I have also done a lot of travel. So far: half a dozen drives across the U.S. and visits to Thailand, Vietnam, China, Tibet, Australia, New Zealand, Costa Rica—and Ecuador.

Edward Yeagers, Professor Emeritus



For me, just say I'm traveling, gardening, learning foreign languages and living in Florida with a couple of million other retirees. Also,

that I miss the energy and intelligence of Tech students, but don't miss campus politics one bit.

Jerry Hubbard, Professor Emeritus (jerry_hubbard@att.net):



Following my retirement in 1995, I stayed on at Georgia Tech for two years in the capacity of a part-time professor. This helped pay

for daughter Amy's medical school expenses and eased the way into full retirement. Once my son Randall accepted the position near Melbourne, Florida, we relocated there. Mornings were spent playing tennis or gardening with the afternoons devoted to woodworking. The design and construction of fine oak furniture has been my passion. At last count I have built over 100 pieces, enough wood furniture to furnish three households.

Things unraveled a bit in 2004. First, vertigo forced me to give up tennis. Second, the twin hurricanes struck three weeks apart. Although their losses were not catastrophic, having two 18 hour periods of 80+ mph winds was mind boggling. The third whammy came when I

was diagnosed with a medical problem in the period between the hurricanes. Following delays due to hurricane damage and scheduling conflicts, I had major surgery in December. It was hard to cope since I hadn't been in a hospital in 60 years. The heart warming part of the experience was that the kids took off work and spent days and nights at my bedside. Dr. Amy was especially helpful when I had borderline pneumonia. Another round of surgery and assorted maladies caused me to curtail traveling and other activities. I have become involved in competitive scrabble and resumed playing pool after a 55 year hiatus.

Upon reflection, I regard my accomplishments a pretty good run considering my modest background and abilities. It was satisfying to have attended and taught at leading universities, published over 50 research papers and book chapters, talked science in various parts of the world, and hobnobbed with famous scientists and nobel laureates. The transformation of an underachiever to a productive scientist can be traced to one turning point, when Shirley became my bride. With a lot of hard work and good fortune everything else fell into place.

Dwight Holl, Professor Emeritus (dwight.hall@biology.gatech.edu)

I am enjoying retirement in the mountains of western North Carolina. I am trying to keep



up with research in molecular genetics and microbiology via the internet. We have to get internet and TV by satellite! Lots of GT sports available. Using genealogy web sites

to track my family history. I am keeping up with happenings in the SoB by being on the bio-faculty e-mail list. It is great that planning has started for a new building! GaTech has let me keep my e-mail account and I check it every day. I am in contact with some former students and would love to hear from others at the above e-mail.



SoB Faculty

1960

Allen Eschenbrenner
 Robert Fetner
 P.E. Gaffney
 Robert Ingols
 Tom Kethley
 H.S. Min
 Nancy Walls

1970

Robert Fetner
 Tom Kethley
 Allen Eschenbrenner
 E.L. Fincher
 John Heise
 H.S. Min
 Nancy Walls
 Edward Yeagers
 J.R. Strange

1980

G.L. Anderson
 W.F. Bale
 A.C. Benke
 J.W. Crenshaw
 J.A. Diez
 Lloyd Dunn
 David Dusenbery
 Robert Fetner
 E.L. Fincher
 D.M. Gillespie
 Dwight Hall
 R.B. Hanson
 John Heise
 Jerry Hubbard
 R.F. Lee
 K.R. Tenore
 Nancy Walls
 Roger Wartell
 Edward Yeagers

1990

Jung Choi
 Lloyd Dunn
 David Dusenbery
 Paul Edmonds
 Dwight Hall
 John Heise
 Gunther Holzer
 Jerry Hubbard
 Tom Tornabene
 Roger Wartell
 Nancy Walls
 Edward Yeagers

2000

Mark Borodovsky
 Yury Chernoff
 Jung Choi
 Tom DiChristina
 Paul Edmonds
 Steve Harvey
 Mark Hay
 Adam Jones
 John Kirby
 Chris Klausmeier
 Julia Kubanek
 Nael McCarty
 Al Merrill
 Joe Montoya
 Harish Radhakrishna
 Marion Sewer
 Terry Snell
 Patty Sobecky
 Roger Wartell
 Marc Weissburg
 Jeannette Yen
 Igor Zhulin
 David Garton

2010

Yury Chernoff
 Jung Choi
 Tom DiChristina
 Meghan Duffy
 Yuhong Fan
 Eric Gaucher
 Greg Gibson
 Mike Goodisman
 Brian Hammer
 Steve Harvey
 Mark Hay
 David Hu
 Lin Jiang
 King Jordan
 Julia Kubanek
 Kirill Lobachev
 John McDonald
 Al Merrill
 Joe Montoya
 Jerry Pullman
 Inge Schmidt-Krey
 Chong Shin
 Jeff Skolnick
 Terry Snell
 Francesca Storici
 Todd Strelman
 Roger Wartell
 Marc Weissburg
 Joshua Weitz
 Jeannette Yen
 Soojin Yi
 Jennifer Leavey
 Mirjana Brockett
 David Garton
 Linda Green
 Cara Gormally
 Chrissy Spencer





SCHOOL OF BIOLOGY REACHES HALF A CENTURY MILESTONE

By: Dr. Mirjona Milosevic Brockett

This fall we invited our alumni to participate in the 50th anniversary by telling us their stories, memories and visions for the School. We collected and organized answers from over 20 alumni and we are thankful to them for these wonderful recollections.

We asked our alumni several questions, having in mind that it was the School of Biology where they grew to young adults, formed their dreams and visualized their paths to success. We hope that our alumni will treasure those years at the School of Biology and help our new generations of students feel the same.

The questions we asked were:

- 1. Your favorite Biology professors and what was special about them?*
- 2. Your most memorable experiences in the School of Biology?*

3. The most important lesson learned at Tech that has best served you in your career?

4. Your career advice for new generations of Tech Biology graduates?

5. Should Tech re-institute the swimming test—the infamous graduation requirement that existed through the 1970s?

When we asked a question on favorite professors, most of the alumni had someone special in mind or they simply stated what they found as a memorable quality of a professor. We are proud to have had many excellent teachers and mentors. Our alumni seem to prefer professors who interact with students outside of class and who took a personal interest to help students with their goals.

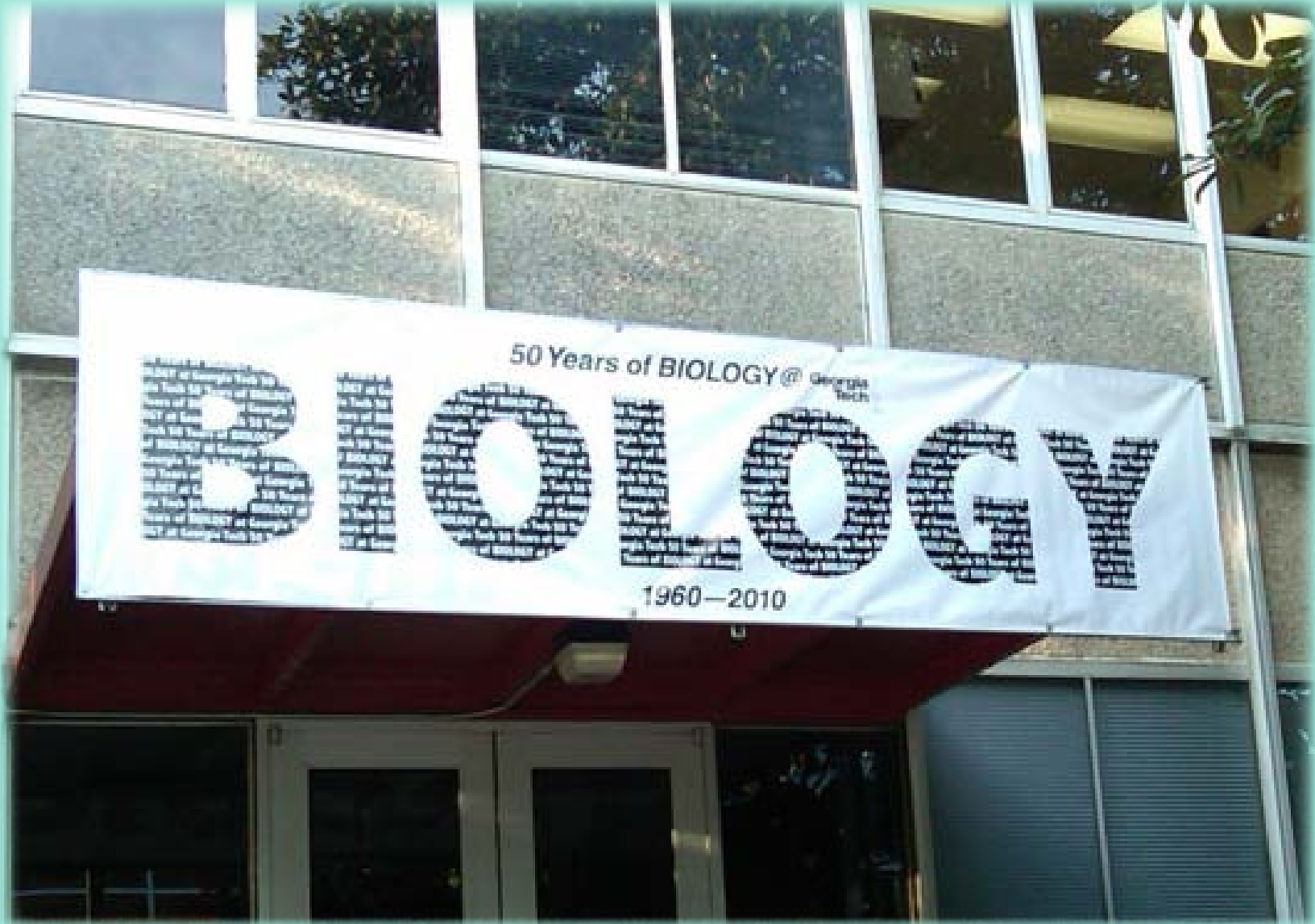
For instance, **Ms. Josreet Hundal** said that each professor she worked with had an important role to play in enriching her

experience at Tech and adding a new dimension to her journey as an international student.

Many former and present day faculty were mentioned and the overall message is perhaps best summarized by alumnus **Dr. Jeffrey Nakono**, who said: “I appreciate all of my professors and teachers at Georgia Tech for giving me the background to complete my education.”

Our second question on the best/worst experiences and regrets produced a good number of funny and interesting stories. **Ms. Susan Davis**, for example talks about the beautiful Sapelo Island and her Limnology class trip (with *Dr. Dunn*). She writes that such an experience made biology real to her and prompted her interest in environmental protection and conservation.

Our third question about the most important lesson learned at Tech that has best served alumni



in their careers, produced some interesting insights worth noting. Perhaps the most common answer that Tech taught them the value of hard work and perseverance. Others emphasized the technical lab experience, as well as general education that gave them a good start for their future professions.

Question four asked alumni to offer career advice to our new generation of students. The range of answers is illustrated by the following examples.

Dr. Wayne Kerr: “My career advice to those leaving Tech’s hallowed halls is to understand that you have received an incredibly rich education that places you head and shoulders above the competition.”

Ms. Lowrie Ward said that having a Tech degree really does open doors for you. Our recent graduate, **Ms. Sarah Pagnioni** states that experience in research is very important for our students, even if “you never do research after college.”

Last, was our question on the desirability of reinstating Tech’s

swimming test—the infamous “drownproofing” graduation requirement that existed through the 1970s. Although many are supportive of the idea of a swimming test, most think that such test should not be required for graduation.

We are grateful to all our alumni for their entertaining and interesting memories. We hope that by taking stock of where we have been we will be able to chart a future course that will benefit our current and future students, alumni and friends.

Alumni Quotes

Emily Weigel <Emily.Weigel@gatech.edu>

Your favorite professors and what was special about them?

This is a tough question. I'd probably have to say the professors I got to interact with outside of class. I really enjoyed undergrad research and BSAC, and I feel like my professors took a personal interest to flesh out my goals and help me meet them through these avenues.

Your best/worst experiences and your regrets?

I loved Honors Ecology and studying abroad for a year. Both of those experiences help me grow as a person and the ecologist I hope to someday be. I don't think I have any real regrets, but if I had to say, I wish I would have taken more CS courses; I have an interest in CS and I let prereqs/time/money talk me out of taking more courses.

Your career choice and career advice for new generations?

I'm going for my PhD at Michigan State right now, and I hope to work in evolutionary ecology. I would say, regardless of if you know what you want to do and what you don't, try everything anyway; it's good to verify things, and you never know what you'll discover.

How do you envision the future for the School of Biology?

I'd really like to see the School of Biology operate as one cohesive body. There is a growing sense of community, and I'd really like to see that develop into a strong, interdependent status between students, faculty, and staff. I hope we'll have a growing presence at Georgia Tech, and through our own strengths, offer partnerships with other departments on not just the graduate but also the undergraduate level.

Do you think that our new Bio-building should also serve as a place for public outreach and education?

Educating the public is never a bad idea in my opinion. Issues like evolution and vaccinations do have an impact on not only what we will teach our children, but their physical lives as well. I think exposing people to biology and how it affects their lives, as well as discovering what common misconceptions or gaps there are, would all be great steps to mutual understanding and progress.

What did you learn at the School and at Georgia Tech in general, that has served you well?

I'm a recent alumna, so I can't really say too much on this. I will say, though, when studying abroad and meeting other students at grad school weekends, I was really surprised at the amount of math and computer science we take as biologists at Tech. It really made me stand out and was a huge advantage, even though I think I'm not great at math.

And last, but not least, should Tech re-institute the swimming test?

Why not? Maybe we could update it to Wii Swim.

Jorod Wilson, Emory University, Department of Biological and Biomedical Sciences, Immunology and Molecular Pathogenesis, Jarad.Wilson@gmail.com

Your favorite Biology professors and what was special about them?

Dr. Nael McCarty. Just a fantastic professor, teacher, mentor. Taught immunology in a way that was both informative, and absorbing. Helped you stay on topic by keeping the class interesting. Encouraged you to come by and discuss with him any topics, even that outside of class. He is the reason I pursued a career in immunology.

Your most memorable experiences in the School of Biology.

When **Dr. Spiro** determined I was more interested in his research than cleaning dishes, and he allowed me to pursue a honor's thesis in the lab. It was rewarding when someone noticed I had more potential than they thought.

The most important lesson learned at Tech that has best served you in your career?

How to enjoy working at the bench. Luckily my two professors I worked with, **Dr. Sobecky** and **Dr. Spiro**, both had a way of helping you enjoy the bench, not feel like you have to suffer through it. Enjoying the bench was key to the career I pursued

Your career advice for new generations of Tech Biology graduates?

At least try out a laboratory while in school. Not only is it a good learning experience, resume builder, etc, but you can get paid and

or get graded for it. It's a win win. Try to find a newer professor with a small lab, as they are most likely to want some help. Even if it's just doing dishes to start, if you sound interested you may get a project out of it, and maybe even your name on a paper.

Should Tech re-institute the swimming test—the infamous graduation requirement that existed through the 1970's?

Of course. My dad always mentioned this when he would tell me about school, and I was sad to see it go. Sounds like an experience.

Kothy Hennessy <katchow@charter.net>

Your favorite Biology professors and what was special about them?

My favorite professor was **Dr. Choi**—Genetics. He'd have us get up and act out transcription and translation (at least that's what I remember) and by the end of it—it was more like a ballet that you had fun with than a microscopic event. Also THOROUGHLY enjoyed **Dr. Nancy Walls'** lectures—she would throw in fascinating information about her life (I still remember that she was able to spend time at the South Pole) that it made them unpredictable in a good way

Your most memorable experiences in the School of Biology?

I'd have to say spending time with Marc Pline—is he still there? What an interesting person! Loved the poster up in his room—something like “the worst country music song titles”—one of them was “My wife ran away with my best friend and I still miss him” or something like that. Then getting to work with him in Grad school—he was an interesting person and a fantastic boss.

The most important lesson learned at Tech that has best served you in your career?

Don't give up. And if you don't understand it, don't be afraid to say it, and then be prepared to work harder to understand and make something of it.

Your career advice for new generations of Tech Biology graduates?

Be focused. Be determined. Date a Computer Major (hey, it worked for me!).



Should Tech re-institute the swimming test – the infamous graduation requirement that existed through the 1970’s?

YES! I taught swimming (at SAC! Does anyone remember that place???) for the 7 years I was there. Y’all need to be able to swim (actually—you need to be “drownproofed”)!

John Harden, D.M.D. Atlanta, GA BSIM, 1969 BS Biology, 1974 MS Biology, 1976 <http://www.jhdmd.com>



Your favorite Biology professors and what was special about them?

My favorite Biology professors were **Dr. Gary L. Anderson** (recently deceased) and **Dr. John W. Crenshaw, Jr.** (also deceased and former Chair of Biology at GA Tech). Dr. Anderson was my adviser in graduate school there in 1974–1976. My Master’s Thesis was ***Myocardial Adaptation to Anemia during Nutritional Anemia***. Dr. Anderson (PhD, Indiana Univ.) guided me in the right direction so my research was credible and original. Dr. Crenshaw wanted me to go for a PhD but I told him I was bound for the Medical College of GA.

Your most memorable experiences in the School of Biology?

My most memorable experience was working with 100 Sprague-Dawley rats on the 3rd floor of the Cherry-Emerson building. Half of the rats had diarrhea from their diet of raw cow’s milk. This diet induced a microcytic anemia. The controls dined on Purina rat chow.

The most important lesson learned at Tech that has best served you in your career?

I always said the students in my classes at Tech were just as smart and usually smarter than I. The competition was intense and ingrained a “staying power” into one. This “staying power” prepares you for the cold, cruel world which is much more brutal than school.

Your career advice for new generations of Tech Biology graduates?

My career advice is to study hard and to remain focused, and at some point to determine what your passion actually is. When you have found your passion many doors will open up for you.

Should Tech re-institute the swimming test—the infamous graduation requirement that existed through the 1970’s?

Yes, the swimming test should be a requirement as it may save your life one day. Physical training is very important to me today as I spent 22 years in the U.S. Army.

Susan Davis, BS BIOL 1991



Your favorite Biology professors and what was special about them?

Dr. Dunn—so energetic and enthusiastic. He seemed more accessible than the other professors to me.

Your most memorable experiences in the School of Biology?

Sapelo Island trip for our Limnology class (with **Dr. Dunn**)—it’s what made environmental biology real to me and probably prompted my interest in environmental protection, and conservation. I realized then and there I was not a lab girl—I needed to be out in the real world. We stayed in a trailer and at night shone our flashlights out to see multitudes of alligator (crocodile?) eyes. I vividly remember rubbing our feet on the beach at night to see the phosphorescence. Really a magical trip.

The most important lesson learned at Tech that has best served you in your career?

Show up! I started out college as sort of a mess—having too much fun to go to class. In my last year I realized that if you just showed up for class that was 90% of the work (to paraphrase Woody Allen). Doing the homework helped a bit too.

Your career advice for new generations of Tech Biology graduates?

Don’t feel limited to research or pre-med (what I thought were the only options at the time)! Biology is everywhere and becoming more and more important to the world. Public health, environment, biodiversity, food supply, even climate change (think ocean biology), obesity, mental health, even romance, all comes down to biology.

Should Tech re-institute the swimming test—the infamous graduation requirement that existed through the 1970’s?

I wasn’t around then—but I think that there should be a requirement for physical education. I still remember having to figure out how many calories I needed to eat and burn off each week. Taking care of your body means taking care of your mind. You don’t have to be “drownproofed” to learn that lesson.

Rich Gregory; rich.gregory@virginia.edu
Office: MSE Rm. 223 <http://people.virginia.edu/~rtg2t> 434-989-8857-cell 982-5677-fax

Position: Systems Analyst/Programmer School of Engineering and Applied Science University of Virginia Charlottesville, VA.

I am married with two grown children. We are still Presbyterians. Both our kids went to UVA. I am active in the Boy Scouts and the local Democratic Party. I read a lot and exercise regularly and eat my vegetables. I am mainly a Unix sysadmin and web programmer and database administrator. I teach short courses in Unix Admin, Samba Server Usage and PHP / MySQL programming.

Pictures: Then: <http://people.virginia.edu/~rtg2t/latest/richNdad.1969.jpg> <http://people.virginia.edu/~rtg2t/images/uva77.jpg>
Now: <http://people.virginia.edu/~rtg2t/latest/graduation2010.jpg>

Your favorite Biology professors and what was special about them?

Professor Yeagers—He taught the hard courses and made them relevant. He was available to answer questions and help us learn.

Your most memorable experiences in the School of Biology?

A. The camaraderie we had our junior and senior years. B. The wise decision we made NOT to put LSD in the punch at a Friday afternoon senior seminar in the spring of 1971.

The most important lesson learned at Tech that has best served you in your career?

Work smart. Be truthful.

Your career advice for new generations of Tech Biology graduates?

Always be ready to learn new material. The world is changing very rapidly.

Should Tech re-institute the swimming test—the infamous graduation requirement that existed through the 1970s? No

Sarah Paglioni, PhD Candidate, Harvard Medical School Microbiology and Molecular Genetics

Your favorite Biology professors and what was special about them?

Dr. Weissburg was a great teacher. He was rough around the edges but was genuinely concerned about how his students integrated whatever material he was teaching. He also had a great way of translating a typical textbook lesson to a real life situation. Also, **Julia Kubanek** was one of the best professors who really cared about the undergrads. She was great to talk to about anything.

Your most memorable experiences in the School of Biology?

Working in the labs. Also, **Dr. Weissburg's** ecology class and his “no bull” attitude.

The most important lesson learned at Tech that has best served you in your career?

I did research in **John Kirby's** lab which benefitted me the most. The emphasis on research is great.

Your career advice for new generations of Tech Biology graduates?

Be an engineer. Just kidding...no matter what, get experience in research. Just the thought processes involved in doing research are so valuable, even if you never do research after college.

Should Tech re-institute the swimming test—the infamous graduation requirement that existed through the 1970s?

Why not...survival of the fittest right?

Wayne E. Kerr, DDS B.S. Applied Biology 1973, M.S. Physiology, 1974

Your favorite Biology professors and what was special about them?

My favorite professor was **Dr. John Strange**. We became good friends, as he served as my chief adviser and committee chair for my master's degree.

Your most memorable experiences in the School of Biology?

My most memorable experiences come from my graduate studies year (1973 - 74). As a grad student, I was given the opportunity to teach the senior physiology lab (a six hour lab). When the expired human blood from Grady failed to arrive for our hemolysis lab, I quickly ran to the infirmary and had six tubes of my own blood drawn for the six lab benches. Having only minutes to return to the Emerson building for the afternoon lab, I ran across campus carrying the blood forgetting that I'd consumed no liquids, eaten no snack, and that it was an extremely warm spring day with high humidity. I barely made it to the third floor landing when it occurred to me that I was about to faint. Carefully setting the vials of blood on the ground, I stretched out across the cool concrete white as a sheet, gasping for breath, and covered with sweat, only to find a number of my students coming up the stairs, stepping over me, and imploring me not to be late for class! Late in my graduate year, as I was completing data collection, the nuclear reactor below my student office was accessed to remove the core. Unfortunately, my data collection required that I incubate chicken embryos in my office. Realizing the eggs were soon to hatch, I holed up in my office for two and a half days waiting for the event. It was, of course, during this time, that signs were posted to evacuate the building to avoid exposure to the radiation. And, of course, no one knew I was eating, sleeping, and studying in my office, awaiting the magic moment, separated from the nuclear core by only four inches of concrete! (The family joke is that that's what's wrong with me today...)

The most important lesson learned at Tech that has best served you in your career?

The most important lesson I learned from my Georgia Tech experience is how to problem solve. Whether it's a clinical issue with one of my patients, a management issue regarding running a small business, or a community or organizational issue faced as a volunteer, Tech grads know how to solve problems!

Your career advice for new generations of Tech Biology graduates?

My career advice to those leaving Tech's hallowed halls is to understand that you

have received an incredibly rich education that places you head and shoulders above the competition. I barely escaped with a 2.7 overall as an undergrad (4.0 as a grad), but was accepted to Emory University's School of Dentistry in 1974. Emory was one of the top five dental schools in the nation at the time, and had more than 8,000 applications for 100 positions. I entered the class of 1978 as the “caboose,” the student with the lowest class rank my freshman year. By the beginning of my sophomore year, however, my class rank had risen to #33. I graduated in the top twenty.

Should Tech re-institute the swimming test—the infamous graduation requirement that existed through the 1970s?

I took drownproofing winter quarter of my freshman year and scored 990 points out of a possible 1000! I believe it was my only “A.” But then again, I grew up in Florida, and was a member of a swim team! Drownproofing was an incredibly valuable life experience and confidence builder, but, no, it should not be a requirement to graduate from one of the nation's greatest engineering programs!!

Bob Gross MD, Class of 1962
Applied Biology

Your favorite Biology professors and what was special about them?

My favorite Biology Professor was **Dr. Peter Gaffney**. He was passionate about Biology, very encouraging to students, and very available for any type of discussion.

Your most memorable experiences in the School of Biology?

My most memorable experience was a field trip to a reservoir in central Georgia. We were there to take water samples at varying depths for Oxygen analysis in a small boat. Very satisfying sampling and seeing our results quickly. Great fun.

Also I graduated first of the whole 1000+ GT graduating class in 1962: Applied Biology was the newest Major and I was the first of three by alphabet.



The most important lesson learned at Tech that has best served you in your career?

The most important lesson I think I learned is perseverance and hard work will get you most anywhere.

Your career advice for new generations of Tech Biology graduates?

Applied Biology is a great stepping-stone to many varied careers; in my case Medicine.

Lowrie Word and I graduated in May 2006. I am actually just this month graduating from USF with my Masters in Public Health. For the past four years I've been working for the Duval County Health Department in Jacksonville, FL as a program coordinator. Next month I am moving to Washington DC to work for the National Association of County & City Health Officials. I will be helping local health departments across the country with the accreditation process.

Your favorite Biology professors and what was special about them?

Working in **Dr. Kubanek's** lab was the best experience of my undergraduate studies—she always encourages her students to explore their own ideas, but provides guidance and support when needed.

Your most memorable experiences in the School of Biology?

I loved Ecology Project Lab w/ Dr. Snell—the projects we did in North Carolina and Sapelo Island were fun and informative!

The most important lesson learned at Tech that has best served you in your career?

To think analytically—and my biostatistics education has served me well.

Your career advice for new generations of Tech Biology graduates?

Having a tech degree really does open doors for you. I was worried about wanting to get into the public health field because my degree was not related to it...but because of my GT degree, employers knew I was smart, up for a challenge and interested in technology!

Should Tech re-institute the swimming test—the infamous graduation requirement that existed through the 1970s?

Maybe in lieu of a calculus class?!?!?

Andrew B. Chung, MD/PhD Board-Certified Cardiologist, <http://HeartMDPhD.com>

Your favorite Biology professors and what was special about them?

Dr. Dwight D. Hall because he taught this physician's favorite courses which were molecular biology and virology.

Your most memorable experiences in the School of Biology?

This physician (<http://HeartMDPhD.com/HeartDoc>) enjoyed the recombinant DNA laboratory conducted by **Dr. Hall**.

The most important lesson learned at Tech that has best served you in your career?

Do not accept theory as fact. Test theories, throw them out as soon as they fail, and move on.

Your career advice for new generations of Tech Biology graduates?

Be very careful to guard both the body and the heart: <http://HeartMDPhD.com/BeSmart>

Should Tech re-institute the swimming test—the infamous graduation requirement that existed through the 1970s?

No. We should be compassionate toward those who just cannot swim.

Craig McKoy <cmckay@nc.rr.com>

Your favorite Biology professors and what was special about them?

David Dusenbery: he taught me the meaning of quantitative biology.

Your most memorable experiences in the School of Biology?

My office in the Rat House & the great parties we had there.

The most important lesson learned at Tech that has best served you in your career?

The importance of understanding the biophysical interactions of molecules.

Your career advice for new generations of Tech Biology graduates?

Focus on understanding fundamentals and principles, the rest is just details.

Should Tech re-institute the swimming test—the infamous graduation requirement that existed through the 1970s?

Shouldn't a swim test be an admission requirement?

Curtis K. Deutsch, PhD (Georgia Tech 1973); My current position is: Research Scientist, Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center, Harvard Medical School [Boston]. Interests: Biomedical research in neuropsychiatric illness, Genetics/Genomics Imaging

Your favorite Biology professors and what was special about them?

Dr. Nancy Walls was my favorite: a savvy and kind advisor who epitomized the quality of academic "generativeness."

Your career advice for new generations of Tech Biology graduates?

Take the opportunity to follow your intellectual interests, even beyond the scope of science and technology.

Should Tech re-institute the swimming test—the infamous graduation requirement that existed through the 1970's?

Definitely for those students who go out for Crew.

Josreet Hundol, MS Bioinformatics—Dec 2009, (Attached photo) Current Position: Bioinformatics Programmer II, The Genome Center, Washington University School of Medicine, St Louis, MO.

Your favorite Biology professors and what was special about them?

Each professor I worked with had an important role to play in enriching my experience at Tech and adding a new dimension to my journey as an International Student. But, I would like to specifically mention our Graduate Advisor **Dr. Jung Choi**. He was always there for us—be it important advice in selecting courses or helping us handle pressures at Tech. His calm demeanor went a long way in making sure we did well at Tech!

My other favorite professor is **Dr. Stephen Harvey**. His immense knowledge and his jovial nature are a perfect blend, which make the learning process so easy in an otherwise intensive course setting.

Your most memorable experiences in the School of Biology?

Most of our time from Fall 2008-Dec 2009 was spent in Cherry Emerson—306. It was a hub for our Bioinformatics group. I still remember how we would



stay over the entire night trying to complete assignments on T-square just seconds before the deadline! From the vending machine that would never give back our change or accept our buzzcards; to the newly revamped iMacs in 306, everything added a new leaf to our book of memories at SOB.

The most important lesson learned at Tech that has best served you in your career?

No matter how hard the journey might seem, NEVER EVER GIVE UP...It's always worth the effort!

Your career advice for new generations of Tech Biology graduates?

Work super hard, have your share of fun while learning with and from the best minds and most importantly contribute towards the society.

Should Tech re-institute the swimming test—the infamous graduation requirement that existed through the 1970s? Yes!!

Lorry Lawrence, BS Applied Biology, 1974

Your favorite Biology professors and what was special about them?

Dr. Min; (I forget his first name, early 1970's) He told us it would do no good to study for his exam he was administering to us the next day, that he had taken the test 3 times and "flunked it" each time.

Your most memorable experiences in the School of Biology?

Six-hour labs and catching my hair on fire in a Bunsen burner. Also, learning about the work underway with recombinant DNA.

The most important lesson learned at Tech that has best served you in your career?

Learning to question, observe, and run the experiment—test the results.

Your career advice for new generations of Tech Biology graduates?

FIND A WAY TO SERVE PEOPLE AND HAVE FUN DOING IT.

Should Tech re-institute the swimming test—the infamous graduation requirement that existed through the 1970s?

OF COURSE, THE DEGREES OF THOSE WHO HAD TO PASS SWIMMING (DROWNPROOFING) ARE MORE VALUABLE THAN THOSE WHO DID NOT.

Curt Bozmore: I graduated from Tech in 1975 with a degree in Biology. I went onto Ga State in their PT program, graduating in 1977 as a physical therapist. I worked at Northside Hospital for 3 years before going into private practice. I joined two other PT's and together we built a large PT practice with offices all over north Atlanta. We sold this practice in 1994 and I stayed on with them for 5 years. I left and began a sports performance training company in 1999. I then sold that practice and went to work for an orthopedic friend of mine where I now run his therapy division of his practice. We have a private office in the Lawrenceville, Gwinnett County area where we treat general orthopedic problems and work with several of the local high school sports programs. I still cover high school sports in the evenings. I am married (now for 29 years), have 2 children (daughter Jen who is 27 and Brad, 18—he leaves for Ga Southern this week).

Your favorite Biology professors and what was special about them?

My favorite Bio teacher had to be **Dr. John Strange** who was a great guy, just a little wacky!!

Your most memorable experiences in the School of Biology?

My most memorable experience came with the first day of Biology class, sitting in a classroom of 200 or more where a weird professor with a wiry Afro(he was white) informs us to "look to our right and look to our left, one of you won't be here at the end of the quarter!"

The most important lesson learned at Tech that has best served you in your career?

The most important lesson learned was that hard work won't kill you and what doesn't kill you makes you stronger. I carried that work ethic onto my PT career.

Your career advice for new generations of Tech Biology graduates?

The advice I would pass on is to be proud of your education but never stop learning and keeping up with the advancement of knowledge.

Should Tech re-institute the swimming test—the infamous graduation requirement that existed through the 1970s?

Please don't bring back the swim challenge, it is antiquated and no longer necessary!

Koysi S. Benefield, D.O.



I am having a hard time thinking of any memories that would be the least bit interesting to others. **Dr. Al Merrill** was great. He took time to explain things when they weren't completely clear.

I graduated from Georgia Campus—Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in May of 2010. I am currently doing my internship at St. Petersburg General Hospital in St. Petersburg, FL.

I have attached a photo from my graduation from Georgia Tech in May 2005 and a photo from my graduation from medical school in



May 2010. The medical school graduation photo is of me and Trey Haunson, BS Biol '02 and MS Biol '04.

Tim Helton, MD, Biology, Class 1974

Having realized after two years in the Aerospace Engineering program (including co-op) that my heart was NOT in engineering, I made the fortunate decision to change my major to Biology. My most memorable experience was taking my final ORAL exam in Anatomy and Physiology with **Dr. Strange** (in 1974, we didn't know any professor's first names). Standing in front of him and about 8-10 other students I was asked to track the passage of a Frosted Orange, chili dog and onion rings from the Varsity from the mouth all the way through the GI tract-anatomy, enzymes, etc. My immediate reaction was to have my own GI response. I initially didn't know where to even begin. He was very compassionate and got me started and gave me "hints" along the way. I can't remember ever being anymore terrified in any exam (and I've had way too many since). He took pity on me and gave me an A, which I'm still not sure I deserved.



Another professor whose name I do not remember—he was rumored to have a drink or two on occasion-gave me a D in a class that clearly was incorrect. Fortunately, I had saved all my exams during his class and should have made a B. This was about the same time I was applying to medical school and a D would not have been ideal. I made an appointment to speak with him about my grade and he reviewed my exams and his log of my grades (I thought for sure he would accuse me of changing something); he looked over every answer on the test in question and changed my final grade to a B. I can't say how relieved I felt. I never took one of his classes again, however.

Tech is certainly a difficult school (I suspect it's much more difficult now) but it prepares students for whatever comes their way. I still tell anyone who will listen that I worked as

hard at Tech as I did in medical school—it's true. In fact, the first year of medical school was a replay of my last year at Tech—only not as hard (BUT more volume). I still believe that is the beauty of a Tech degree—you've EARNED something very valuable.

When I took the drownproofing class I initially missed the 50-yard underwater swim test (I had gone to Mardi Gras). I foolishly thought that meant I could skip it. On my first class back I was asked to do it. I have no idea how, but I did. I had never been able to do it before and I'm sure I could never do it after but somehow I did it that day.

Now I have a successful Family Practice in East Cobb, Marietta, Ga and thank my lucky stars for the experiences and challenges I had in the Biology Dept at Tech.

Jeffrey M. Nakano, MD BS Biology
1974, Emory University School of Medicine
1974-1978, Orthopedic Surgery Residency
1978-1983

Orthopedic Surgeon in private practice in Grand Junction, CO since 1983, Spouse: Sherry Gentry Nakano, MD

I appreciate all of my professors and teachers at Ga. Tech for giving me the background to complete my education. **Dr. Powers** in Biochemistry was a standout in my mind.

Albert Z. Holloway 1968-71

First black biology major. Md 1975. Faap. Fond memory of **Dr. Fincher**.



John Crenshaw



Jerry Hubbard



Nancy Walls



Jung Ho Choi

biobash

Celebrating 50 Years of BIOLOGY at Georgia Tech

Friday, October 8, 2010, 7:00-10:00 p.m.
Marcus Nanotechnology Building, Georgia Tech

School of Biology Alumni Hosts

Dr. Cynthia Mangiomeli Bossart and Mr. James Efron
Dr. Wade Barnes
Dr. Timothy Helton
Mr. William Lawrence
and Ms. Rebecca Howie

Invite you to the Georgia Tech School of Biology 50th Anniversary Celebration

- Mingle with alumni, faculty, staff students and friends!
- Enjoy delicious food, drink and live music!
- Experience the view of the new biology building site from the patio of the Marcus Nanotechnology Building!
- Bid on dozens of fabulous items in the silent auction!
- Learn about current research and activities in the departmental showcase!

Ticket Types:

Student (I. D. required at door)	\$25
Individual	\$50
Friend Bundle (5 tickets)	\$200

Sponsors (includes two tickets)

Prokaryote	\$250
Embryophyte	\$500
Anthropod	\$1000
Echinoderm	\$5000
Vertebrate over	\$5000



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To order tickets or for more information visit:

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Proceeds from BioBash 2010 ticket sales will benefit the Biology Student and Faculty Programs Fund.