Chief of Police Vickery retires; director of campus safety created

New responsibilities for successor

Michael Hagerty
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

Take a large college campus. Then put it in the middle of a major metropolitan city. Finally, expand its population density and land area across an interstate. Police Chief Jack Vickery was willing to oversee law enforcement and security under these circumstances.

A lot has changed during the past 22 years, but Police Chief Jack Vickery has remained a fixture. His retirement — effective June 1 — coincides with a redefinition of the role of Tech’s head police official. Bob Thompson, senior vice president for Administration and Finance, cited the importance of emergency planning and response as a major factor in the decision. “A desire to continue our campus safety progress, coupled with Chief Vickery’s retirement, have caused us to consider how we might best organize and deliver these services,” he said.

Vickery said that, as Tech becomes more connected to the community, such a change was to be anticipated. “I believe society’s expectations and the expectations of most campus communities have evolved — and are continuing to evolve — to expect safety to be a top priority.”

Zegura named interim dean for College of Computing

Bruce Brooks
College of Computing

Provost Jean-Lou Chameau has named Ellen Zegura, assistant dean of facilities planning and associate professor of computing, to the position of interim dean of the College of Computing, effective May 6. Chameau made the announcement at a special faculty meeting on April 25, which was open to all members of the College. Zegura will serve as dean while a search committee looks for a replacement, which could be announced as early as this summer.

In making the announcement, Chameau said, “I’m very pleased that Ellen has accepted my offer to hold this important position during this critical time for the College. Having served the College and Georgia Tech in numerous capacities over the years, I’m confident that the College will continue to perform very well under her guidance and leadership.”

In January Peter Freeman announced he was stepping down as dean to assume a position with the National Science Foundation (NSF) in Washington as assistant director of NSF for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE). He will remain a member of the Georgia Tech faculty, on assignment to NSF.

Spring Commencement largest in school history

Elizabeth Campbell
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When asked about her plans after graduation, Erin Freyman replied, “Road trip!” She plans to hit four different amusement parks and two baseball games before returning to Atlanta to do some serious job searching while continuing to work as a lab technician at the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI).

This past weekend, Erin and father, Rich Combes, each celebrated their graduations from Tech; two of the 1,847 students who received degrees at Alexander Memorial Coliseum during Georgia Tech’s 212th commencement ceremony.

President Wayne Clough served as master of ceremonies, and John Marburger III delivered two commencement addresses at both the morning’s undergraduate ceremony and the afternoon event for those receiving master’s and doctoral degrees. Marburger is science advisor to President George W. Bush and director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, which oversees the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, of which Clough is also a member.

While Erin received her bachelor’s degree in polymer and textile chemistry, Rich received his fourth degree, a Ph.D. in History of Technology, to go with bachelor’s and master’s degrees in mechanical engineering, and a master’s degree in technology and science policy — all from Georgia Tech.

With 50 years of service, Rich will retire in late June from his position as a senior research engineer with GTRI. He and his wife, Bonnie, plan to move to South Carolina where he plans to teach.

“One of the things that attracted me to the job was the option of attending graduate school at Tech while working full-time,” he said. “I’ve earned three degrees while working at GTRI, which I found very supportive of my studies.”

His daughter credits her father’s influence in her success. “Looking back on things, I find that my dad’s advice about what to do to succeed here at Georgia Tech was completely on target,” she said. “It was just a matter of if I listened. He has always been a good example. It did not really matter that he was also a student here at Tech.”

Paraplegic graduates with honors

Of all the graduates, Christina Combes’ story stands out as one of fierce determination to overcome a number of obstacles and succeed in what she set out to do — graduate from Georgia Tech. Last weekend, Freyman graduated with honors with a bachelor’s degree in materials science and engineering and a minor in public policy. In the fall, she heads to Northwestern University for graduate school.

Last summer, Freyman was driving near Salt Lake City on her way home to Hot Springs, Arkansas, when she had a serious car accident. Her car ran off the road and flipped several times before coming to a rest upside down. An emergency helicopter, en route to Salt Lake City, saw the stopped traffic and made an unplanned landing.

“This is the sole medical reason I am doing so well,” she said. “The medical team in the helicopter was able to administer steroids on the ground. The steroids helped to stop the swelling of my spinal cord and prevented the cord from damaging itself past the original break.”

Freyman was in the hospital for two months and missed a semester of school. For a while, the prognosis was that she might not walk again.

Graduation continued, page 3
David Terraso
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B
dian German’s love affair with airplanes started when he was three years old, the day his father first showed him the skies in his Lake Buccaneer. No ordinary plane, the Buccaneer could take off and land on the ground and the water, using its fuselage to keep it afloat. It was his first glimpse of innovative aircraft designs and although most kids would’ve probably wanted to pilot the planes, by the time he was 12, German knew he wanted to build them. Now, as the winner of a Fulbright Fellowship, the 26-year-old graduate student from Lafayette, Georgia, will get the chance of a lifetime when he flies to Germany in August to spend a year immersed in aerospace research at the Technical University of Berlin (TU Berlin).

German says his passion for engineering began at an early age. “I was always big into Lego blocks as a kid. I used to watch the Discovery channel with my dad and they’d show the guys in white coats who designed the planes. I wanted to do that. I wanted to be able to make something from nothing,” he said.

A long way from Legos, now’s he’s working on using high-intensity sound waves to make aircraft engines more efficient. “You can push air with sound,” he said, which increases air compression inside the engine. The higher the intensity of the sound, the more it compresses the air. And as the air compression inside the engine increases, so does its efficiency.

“That’s the theory, anyway. German’s research at TU Berlin should help discover if the theory translates to the real world. “The Fulbright Fellowship will pay for his travel, tuition, books, as well as room and board. The program was created in 1946 with legislation sponsored by Senator J. William Fulbright, who reasoned that nations would be less likely to go to war against each other if people could study abroad and learn about each other’s culture. Each year, the U.S. component of the international program awards about 900 grants for American students to pursue international research. More than 140 countries participated in the program this year.

“Germany has such a strong heritage in engineering and rich history in fluid dynamics that it was a natural choice for me to want to study there,” he said.

This will be the first time German will have studied anywhere other than Georgia Tech since he enrolled in the fall of 1994. After earning his bachelor’s in aerospace engineering in 1999, German received his master’s a year and a half later and expects to get his Ph.D. in December 2003. Until now, he’s never applied to any other school. German said he’s ecstatic about the chance to study in Berlin and can’t wait to begin his research. But the first thing he’ll do when he lands won’t be cranking up an airplane engine. It’ll be enrolling in a language refresher course.

Fulbright Fellow Bryan German

Fuller

The advisory committee:

Jack Vickery is retiring after 22 years on the Georgia Tech police force

As the highest ranking official in the department, the police chief is responsible for directing and coordinating the efforts of the department’s three major divisions — patrol, support services and criminal investigation — involving the supervision of 46 sworn police officers among a 69-member, full-time staff.

“Jack has given 22 years of exemplary service to the Georgia Tech community and to generations of students and alumni,” said Thompson. “We all wish him the best in his retirement.”

In planning for his golden years, Vickery said he plans to hit the road. “This is a great country, and I’m embarrassed to say I have seen too little of it. My wife, Barbara, and I hope to correct that, one trip at a time… like Charles Kuralt, but without the television cameras.”

More services from the institution and its police, safety and security operations,” he said. “Campuses are increasingly community-oriented, both as a campus community with its own unique needs, but also as a significant partner in the larger community to which the campus belongs.”

Thompson cited the recommendations of the Campus Safety Task Force, currently being evaluated by senior administration officials, which examined many of these concerns in a report issued over the winter. “We realized that there was a clear need to enhance everyone’s awareness of safety, security and emergency response protocols.” he said, “as well as to assure our individual attention to them.”

Adding to that complexity is the rate of campus growth, not only in population, but also in land and buildings as the Institute extends its boundaries over the inter-state into Technology Square.

“The world is changing,” Vickery said, “and after the tragic events of last September 11, our sense of security, and what are reasonable and acceptable levels of security has changed, perhaps permanently and irrevocably.

Georgia Tech, its security practices and its police force must continue to evolve as well.”

As a result, the position of chief of police will be changed to director of Campus Security and will report to Thompson’s office. In addition to current duties, Vickery’s successor will have added responsibilities for emergency preparedness and response. Thompson said a national search would be initiated immediately to assure a qualified pool of candidates with experience working on a large campus in an urban environment. He also announced that a committee comprised of student, faculty and staff representatives had been formed for advisement on campus perspectives and assistance in identifying candidates.
Ellen worked closely with the interim dean position, he said. Ellen has been named to the meeting. "I am delighted that the provost's choice during the participants to Europe and Asia to offers course work spanning completion. The EMIL program received certificates of International Logistics (EMIL) Executive Masters in time, participants in Tech's events as well. For the first semester later than planned. She has earned her diploma only one Kentucky. Shepherd Center in Atlanta after month of her rehabilitation at abilities. Freyman spent the last and she would lose brain capa-

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ties. Freyman spent the last month of her rehabilitation at Shepherd Center in Atlanta after a stint of therapy in Louisville, Kentucky.

Originally scheduled to gradu-

at last December, Freyman walked across the stage and received her diploma only one semester later than planned.

Inaugural class of EMIL program There were other notable events as well. For the first time, participants in Tech's Executive Masters in International Logistics (EMIL) program received certificates of completion. The EMIL program offers course work spanning over 18 months that takes participants to Europe and Asia to other issues. I know that things will be guided wisely and expertly until a new dean is named."

As assistant dean of facilities planning, Zegura oversees all aspects of space needs for the College’s faculty, staff and stu-
dents. She has earned her doctoral, master’s and bachelor’s degrees in computer science, and a bachelor’s degree in elec-
trical engineering, all from Washington University in St. Louis. She joined the College as an assistant professor in 1993 from Washington University, where she served as a research assistant.

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Financially, they are in a good place. In April, the College of Computing announced the creation of a new endowed chair in computer science, with an initial endowment of $1 million. This is the first endowed chair in computer science at Tech, and it will be housed in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

In terms of research, the College of Computing has continued to attract significant funding from government agencies and industry partners. In the past year, the College has received more than $20 million in external funding, including grants from the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Defense.

In terms of education, the College of Computing continues to offer a wide range of programs and courses, from undergraduate to graduate levels. The College has more than 10,000 students enrolled, and it is home to 19 endowed chairs and 110 full-time faculty members.

In terms of community outreach, the College of Computing has continued to engage with the community through events, workshops, and collaborations. The College has partnered with local businesses and organizations to help them leverage technology to solve problems and improve their operations.

Overall, the College of Computing is in a strong position to continue to advance research and education in computer science and related fields. With its strong financial foundation, talented faculty and students, and robust partnerships, the College is well-positioned to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future.