New parking director to oversee broad changes to campus system

Michael Hagerty
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

Georgia Tech has filled a key position as construction workers begin to put the finishing touches on Technology Square with its 1,250-car parking deck and the new "Tech Trolley" to move students and employees across the connector.

Capping a nine-month search, Robert Furniss has accepted the position as director of Parking and Transportation. He will assume his duties May 7.

Furniss’s qualifications make him uniquely suited to the position. Prior to coming to Tech, he served as the director responsible for parking and transportation at the University of Pennsylvania, an urban campus in Philadelphia serving a faculty, staff and student population of more than 60,000. According to Bob Thompson, senior vice president of Administration and Finance, it was precisely that kind of experience that tipped the scales.

"We have many unique challenges when it comes to parking and transportation at Georgia Tech," Thompson said. "Bringing in someone who has already dealt with all of these issues on a similar campus and urban setting gives us enormous

Director continued, page 5

Old shoes have new life through Earth Day recycling program

Michael Hagerty
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

Cindy Jackson is looking for shoes, and yours will do just fine.

The manager of the Office of Solid Waste Management & Recycling is betting that most faculty and staff have athletic shoes in closets and garages that have outlived their usefulness. In conjunction with Tech’s Earth Day celebration on April 25, she is going to turn those shoes into a new athletic surface.

Shoes continued, page 2

The price of freedom: course questions long-term impact of the USA Patriot Act

Elizabeth Campell
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

It’s rare — some might even say newsworthy — when conservatives and liberals agree on any issue. Yet politicians and citizens on both sides of the political spectrum are finding it difficult to open a debate when it comes to the USA Patriot Act, a bill approved by the federal government broadening the power of law enforcement and intelligence at the expense of the privacy of its citizens.

Those opposed claim such legislation undermines civil liberties, creating a country that is actually less free. Former Congressman Bob Barr, known for his conservative stance, visited campus last week to share his knowledge and opinions about the Patriot Act in a forum with public policy students in the Constitutional Issues course.

In the wake of 9/11 attacks, the U.S. Congress passed the USA Patriot Act — known as Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism — thereby expanding a number of surveillance powers covering wire taps, bank transactions and library books. It’s part of a program called “Total Information Awareness,” and while its stated mission is to prevent acts of terror, many cite the potential for abuse as an instance of art imitating life.

In light of recent privacy issues and expanded governmental powers, Barr recommended reading or re-reading George Orwell’s classic book “1984,” from where the term “Big Brother” originated.

“It’s extremely troubling and, indeed, frightening, and I don’t think that we can overemphasize the analogies in ‘1984’ and the ‘macro’ direction we seem to be going,” he said.

Most of the students expressed their concerns about the Act being overly broad, not sufficiently defining what constitutes “terrorist acts,” and that the new measures did not appropriately balance individual rights with security interests.

Others defended the government’s position, saying the United States is in a state of war and that terrorists must not be allowed to take advantage of the American free market or its open society.

Barr was appreciative of the students’ efforts, saying, “Far too few of our fellow citizens and visitors to this country know anything whatsoever about the consequences of not only the Patriot Act, but also the entire process we’re involved in when we consider and pass legislation like this.”

Barr also explained that even though the Act was passed in reaction to 9/11, he recognized almost every part of the original version as having been proposed — and defeated — before, primarily after the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.

For more information...

USA Patriot Act:
www.epic.org/privacy/terrorism/
h3192.html

American Civil Liberties Union:
www.aclu.org

American Conservative Union:
www.conservative.org

Electronic Frontier Foundation:
www.eff.org
Faculty/Staff SPOTLIGHT

Billiee Pendleton-Parker

This week’s spotlight shines on Billiee Pendleton-Parker, assistant director of the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning (CETL). She was given the Atlanta Hawks Home Team Hero Award on March 29. The award, sponsored by Amtrak, recognizes outstanding individuals who through their commitment and humanitarian spirit have made exceptional and lasting contributions to their community. These individuals exemplify leadership, dedication and a commitment to improving the communities in which they live.

In her spare time, Billiee volunteers for Hands On Atlanta and other volunteer organizations. She said she has been an active volunteer since she collected pennies for UNICEF at age 6, getting involved in projects such as the Atlanta Community Food Bank, serving on the Board of Directors of the NAMES Project/AIDS Quilt and conducting a census of Atlanta’s homeless population.

In October 2002, she was the volunteer chair for Hands on Atlanta Day, in which she oversees more than 15,000 volunteers. It was her history of commitment to serving her community that prompted the Hawks and Amtrak to give her their Home Team Hero Award, but we learned she’s also fond of horror movies.

Up and turn them into soccer fields, basketball courts or running tracks.

Shoes, cont'd from page 1

Age: I just started on my second half-century. I'm 51, and proud of it.

Job description: I coordinate faculty development programs. I bring in exemplary faculty and administrators to talk with the untenured and tenured faculty who are in CETL’s Teaching Fellows programs so that they can get a broad perspective of Tech’s educational issues. I do a series of seminars to talk about the various aspects of teaching and learning. I always bring a panel of students so the faculty can hear their experience in the classroom.

I’m also the coordinator of the online course evaluations, which CETL processes.

What I find most rewarding: These wonderful Tech students are our future. They are staggering bright and talented. What makes me jump out of bed in the morning is knowing that I’m going to interact with them.

Years at Tech: 15

Education: a bachelor’s degree in English and a master’s in education from Western Carolina University. I’ve also taken courses in Advanced Studies in Educational Administration and Leadership at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

I’m a teacher at heart. I’ve taught everyone from preschool age to college professors.

Hobbies: Volunteering and getting Tech students to learn the joys of helping others in their community. I consider them my “works in progress,” or WIFS, as some like to call them. Even if they’re here for just four years, this is their community and hopefully when they move on they’ll take something with them and spread the word to others. I’m a big believer in networking and reaching out. But I never ask the students to do something I wouldn’t do. I’m either right there with them, or have done so in the past.

Favorite book: I’m a former English teacher, so I’ve had my share of reading, but now, I’d rather be out there doing something than reading about it.

Favorite movie: “It’s a Wonderful Life” with Jimmy Stewart, because it is a wonderful life. More recent favorites include “Contact” with Jodie Foster and “The Messenger” about Joan of Arc. The women in those movies have passion, focus and commitment beyond belief.

Favorite horror movie: Most recent, I’d have to say “One Hour Photo,” the one where Robin Williams plays a creepy photomat worker who becomes obsessed with a family that frequents his shop.

The CD in my stereo: Uh-oh, you caught me. I’ve got Celine Dion’s “ Falling into You ” and the soundtrack from “ Shrek .”

Recent volunteer projects: I just participated as the judge coordinator for the FIRST robotics competition for high school students. I served as project coordinator in March with Hands On Atlanta’s Technology Service Day and brought middle-school students to Tech to see technology demonstrations in four areas across campus, including the Aware Home and “living tissues” in biomedical engineering. As always, I “used” a cadre of Tech students as volunteers; this was the perfect way for them to also serve as apt Tech ambassadors/recruiters.

I also participated last month in the first homeless census in the Atlanta area. We started out at 4:30 in the morning and drove around counting the homeless. We had some homeless people with us who trained us on how to spot people who are likely homeless and where to go to find them. This is really important because they are so underserved, and we have to have an accurate count to understand how many and what kind of services would be helpful to them.

Georgia Tech

The Whistle

Editor: Michael Hagarty
Published by Institute Communications and Public Affairs.

Publication is weekly throughout the academic year and biweekly throughout the summer.

The Whistle can be accessed electronically through the Georgia Tech web page, or directly at www.whistle.gatech.edu

Email Whistle submissions to michael.hagarty@ipa.gatech.edu, or fax to Michael at 404-894-7214 at least 10 days prior to desired publication date. For more information, call 404-894-0324.

Copies: 5,200
Institute Communications and Public Affairs
Skiles Walkway Center
177 North Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0181
Georgia Tech is a unit of the University System of Georgia.

Faculty/Staff SPOTLIGHT

Billiee Pendleton-Parker

This week’s spotlight shines on Billiee Pendleton-Parker, assistant director of the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning (CETL). She was given the Atlanta Hawks Home Team Hero Award on March 29. The award, sponsored by Amtrak, recognizes outstanding individuals who through their commitment and humanitarian spirit have made exceptional and lasting contributions to their community. These individuals exemplify leadership, dedication and a commitment to improving the communities in which they live.

In her spare time, Billiee volunteers for Hands On Atlanta and other volunteer organizations. She said she has been an active volunteer since she collected pennies for UNICEF at age 6, getting involved in projects such as the Atlanta Community Food Bank, serving on the Board of Directors of the NAMES Project/AIDS Quilt and conducting a census of Atlanta’s homeless population.

In October 2002, she was the volunteer chair for Hands on Atlanta Day, in which she oversees more than 15,000 volunteers. It was her history of commitment to serving her community that prompted the Hawks and Amtrak to give her their Home Team Hero Award, but we learned she’s also fond of horror movies.

The Whistle

Editor: Michael Hagarty
Published by Institute Communications and Public Affairs.

Publication is weekly throughout the academic year and biweekly throughout the summer.

The Whistle can be accessed electronically through the Georgia Tech web page, or directly at www.whistle.gatech.edu

Email Whistle submissions to michael.hagarty@ipa.gatech.edu, or fax to Michael at 404-894-7214 at least 10 days prior to desired publication date. For more information, call 404-894-0324.

Copies: 5,200
Institute Communications and Public Affairs
Skiles Walkway Center
177 North Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0181
Georgia Tech is a unit of the University System of Georgia.

The Whistle

Editor: Michael Hagarty
Published by Institute Communications and Public Affairs.

Publication is weekly throughout the academic year and biweekly throughout the summer.

The Whistle can be accessed electronically through the Georgia Tech web page, or directly at www.whistle.gatech.edu

Email Whistle submissions to michael.hagarty@ipa.gatech.edu, or fax to Michael at 404-894-7214 at least 10 days prior to desired publication date. For more information, call 404-894-0324.

Copies: 5,200
Institute Communications and Public Affairs
Skiles Walkway Center
177 North Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0181
Georgia Tech is a unit of the University System of Georgia.
In addition to monitoring dozens of lots, thousands of cars and the Singer shuttle service, Furniss will also be responsible for the new Tech Trolley, a dedicated line running between Technology Square and central campus. Rosalind Meyers, vice president of Auxiliary Services, noted, “As far as the department has come in the past five years, it has much further to go.” With five parking decks in various stages of planning, design and construction, the department will be undergoing many changes in the near future. Furniss understands the operational, financial and customer services challenges before us. He has the skill and experience to meet them successfully.

The parking and transit challenges at Georgia Tech are very similar to those here at Penn,” Furniss said. “But the team in Auxiliary Services under the direction of Rosalind Meyers and the style in which they work together to solve problems and tackle initiatives was the key to my decision to come down to Tech.

“There are some terrific people working in parking and transportation,” he added, “and we will work together to raise the bar on service, safety and overall customer experience as we tackle the challenges ahead of us.”