Deborah Smith tapped to head Enrollment Services

David Terraso
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

Staff really can work their way to the top at Georgia Tech. Just ask Deborah Smith: since joining Tech in 1981 as an admissions counselor, Smith has risen through the ranks, becoming the director of undergraduate admission in 1992. As of this month, she’s the new associate vice provost of Enrollment Services.

“Deborah Smith brings to the job a wealth of knowledge about Georgia Tech and a host of ideas about how Enrollment Services can provide even better service to Georgia Tech and its students,” said Bob McNath, vice provost for Undergraduate Studies and Academic Affairs. “Deborah is highly regarded across the campus both for her skills and personal integrity. She has the vision needed to move us forward in crucial areas and the ability to lead, develop, and empower staff.”

Filling the post left vacant by Barbara Hall’s departure in December, Smith will now oversee the offices of undergraduate admission, financial aid, registrar and special programs.

“My job is to find the resources to enable my team to provide better service to students, faculty and staff and meet the enrollment goals of the Institute,” said Smith.

She has big plans. Although the academic quality of Tech’s freshman class has continued to grow year after year, Smith is looking to expand the number of recruiting markets Tech targets. That is a tough thing to do when the Institute’s budget is tight,

Bob Harty
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

“Alumni clubs are filled with people who are loyal to Georgia Tech and want to help us continue to attract the best student minds from across the country,” explained Smith.

“Having them be the first point of contact for prospective students not only helps students feel welcome, but it also shows firsthand the value of a Tech degree. The Ivy League schools have had a successful history of doing this, and it’s something we can be successful at, too.”

Personal attention is key to Smith’s strategies for increasing the number of qualified applicants that will enable Tech to achieve its diversification goals. She wants to increase the personal interaction between students and admissions officers, through personal phone calls,

GTRI names new chief

Stephen Cross
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

“I’m honored to be asked to join such an impressive group of professionals. GTRI has made — and is continuing to make — significant and lasting contributions to the nation’s security and economic strength. It has a key role to play in Georgia Tech’s vision and strategy for the future.”

GTRI is the applied research arm of the Institute. In all, some 1,200 employees perform or support approximately $115 million in annual research for clients in industry and government.

“Steve brings an impressive background to an important post,” said Provost Jean-Lou Chameau. “From radar to fuel cells, and homeland defense to technology transfer, GTRI conducts research vital to government and industry and contributes to...”
Ross to lead ‘smart growth’ research facility

Thomas Galloway, dean of the College of Architecture, recently announced that nationally recognized transportation expert Catherine Ross will become the College’s first endowed faculty member as the Harry West Chair for Quality Growth and Regional Development.

In her new role, Ross will direct the Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development, an educational research arm of the College of Architecture that examines issues of land use, community design, transportation and air quality throughout the Atlanta region and beyond.

The Center will be housed within Tech’s new facilities at Technology Square. Ross begins work July 1.

“I am most pleased to have Catherine assume the leadership role of the center, and I believe this is an historically important step in expanding Georgia Tech’s position in metropolitan-growth scholarship, research and outreach,” Galloway said.

“I’m thrilled to accept this position, especially as the first endowed faculty member of the College of Architecture,” Ross said. “Creation of the Center is very timely, too, because issues of sustainable growth, transportation and community involvement are critical — not only in Atlanta, but throughout the region and the nation.”

Corrections:

• An article in the June 2 issue on student entrepreneurship misidentified Georgia Tech MBA student Trace Haeukins as vice president of marketing for Torex International. He is part of Advanced Audio’s leadership team.

Fullbright Scholarship offers students first trip abroad

David Terrasso
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

Stewart Jenkins’ love affair with science began in outer space. From his early dreams of being an astronaut, Jenkins has turned his fascination inward to the realm of quantum mechanics, where light and matter behave in unpredictable ways. As Georgia Tech’s second recipient of the Fulbright Fellowship this year, the doctoral candidate will take his passion for science to Comio, Italy, to study light bullets at Universita dell’Insubria.

“I’m looking forward to the experience of traveling and working with an international research group,” said Jenkins.

Except for a 30-minute excursion into Mexico, this will be Jenkins’ first international experience. In Como, he’ll study how to produce light bullets, which are intense pulses of laser light that can go through some transparent materials without spreading out like most laser pulses do. The result is a spherical pulse of light that can travel long distances.

“If one could generate and transmit these light bullets over long distances, we could have faster communications because there is no dispersion,” said Jenkins. “Since there is no diffraction, we could have communications over longer distances.”

But it’s not the applications of his research that get him excited: he’s interested in research for research’s sake.

“I have an inherent curiosity as to how and why things work,” he said, explaining his interest in science.

“And I suppose my parents introducing me to Star Trek at an early age had something to do with it.”

Jenkins is Tech’s second Fulbright Fellow this year. Computer Science and Mathematics major David Eger won a Fulbright to study math in Budapest, Hungary, this fall.

The Fulbright program was created in 1946 with legislation sponsored by Sen. J. William Fulbright. A fervent believer in cultural exchange, he 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 cultures.

Corrections:

• A photo caption in the previous issue mislabeled the name of the military award received by Gen. Ray Davis. It should have been referred to as the Medal of Honor, which is given on behalf of the U.S. Congress, but does not bear its name.
Civil and Environmental Engineering names new chair

Jack Lynch
College of Engineering

Georgia Tech has selected Joseph Hughes, professor and chair of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Rice University in Houston, as the new chair of Georgia Tech's School of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

Pending approval from the Board of Regents, Hughes will begin as chair in August. He succeeds Roberto Leon, who has served as interim chair since last summer.

"Dr. Hughes is a dynamic educator and leader," said Don Giddens, dean of the College of Engineering. "His experience in administration, combined with his outstanding academic achievements, will be a great asset to the School."

"We are excited he will be a member of the Georgia Tech team," said Giddens. "I'd also like to thank Roberto Leon for his exceptional leadership during this interim period."

Hughes' appointment concludes a national search begun last year to fill the position, which is responsible for overseeing the school's academic and research programs in areas such as structural survivability following an earthquake and developing new transportation systems. The school has 50 faculty members and offers academic degree programs at all levels to more than 800 students, one of the largest such programs in the country.

Joseph Hughes

Hughes has been at Rice since 1992, working as an assistant professor, associate professor and chair of the university's Department of Environmental Science and Engineering. He also has served as co-director of the EPA Hazardous Substances Research Center South and Southwest. He took the position of chair at Rice's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering in 2001.

"I am extremely surprised and excited about the offer to join the faculty of Georgia Tech," says Hughes. "The dynamic nature of the campus, the desire to achieve excellence in undergraduate and graduate education, and the strength of the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering were all factors in my decision. I truly believe that the school can achieve even greater levels of national and international distinction in the years ahead — and also we can increase the opportunities for students at all levels."

Hughes has a number of publications and written works to his credit. His research has centered on the area of environmental biotechnology; in particular, understanding how novel biochemical metabolic processes can be harnessed through engineering to improve the quality of our environment.

"Departments will be able to see records without having to walk over to the Registrar's Office," she said.

Perhaps Smith's biggest goal is to continue the gains Tech has made over the past ten years in improving student diversity, an element she said is critical to the Institute's educational mission.

"When all is said and done, I want my legacy to be that I was able to increase the ethnic, gender and economic diversity of Georgia Tech's student body."

Cross, cont'd from page 1

a strong academic environment at Georgia Tech. Steve's hands-on leadership style coupled with his innovative ideas and outstanding academic credentials will serve the university well in the years to come. I'm very pleased to see someone as capable as Steve succeed Ed Reedy, a loyal and successful employee. Our research institute will be in very good hands."

The Software Engineering Institute (SEI), an applied research laboratory at Carnegie Mellon University, has been under Cross's direction since 1996. He also holds a joint appointment at that university as a research professor in the Robotics Institute of the School of Computer Science. Cross is a member of the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board and is the past chairman of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency Information Science and Technology panel. He has published more than 50 papers on technology transition and the applications of advanced information processing technology. He received his doctorate from the University of Illinois, his master's degree from the Air Force Institute of Technology, and his bachelor's degree from the University of Cincinnati. In addition, he is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School (Flight Test Engineer Program), the Air War College and the National Defense University.

For more information...

IN BRIEF:

For BME, top graduate students opt for Tech

More National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellows have chosen to study bioengineering at Georgia Tech than at any other school in the country. It is the first time that the Institute's bioengineering program — a joint program between Tech and Emory University — is the preferred choice among NSF Graduate Fellows.

In addition to the eight who have selected bioengineering, thirteen more NSF Fellows will study engineering and another ten will be in programs other than engineering at Tech in the fall.

Nationwide, the 31 NSF Fellows comprise the fifth-highest number of such awards, behind the University of California at Berkeley, MIT, Stanford University, and Harvard University. Tech also had five engineering students receive NSF Graduate Research Fellowships for study at other institutions during 2003-04.

College of Engineering Dean Don Giddens says this showing, especially in the area of bioengineering, is good news for engineering at Tech. "It shows that our emphasis on graduate study is paying off. This is an indication that our relatively new program is highly regarded and is attracting the best students in the nation."

NSF Graduate Fellowships offer recognition and three years of support for advanced study to approximately 900 outstanding graduate students in the mathematical, physical, biological, engineering and behavioral and social sciences, including the history of science and the philosophy of science, and to research-based doctoral degrees in science education.

Showcasing technologies to West Coast investors

Georgia Tech's faculty commercialization program — VentureLab — and several of its most promising technology innovations went on the road recently to let West Coast investors know about opportunities for new company formation in Atlanta.

"The goals of the event were to create an outreach to the West Coast investment community, give investors an awareness of the VentureLab program and create tighter ties between the investment community and early-stage ventures coming out of Georgia Tech," said Wayne Hodges, Tech's associate vice president for economic development and technology ventures.

In a half-day session dubbed "Technology Day West," VentureLab staff made presentations to 60 representatives of California venture capital firms, including some of the nation's top investors in early-stage technology ventures.

Held in Palo Alto, Calif., the meeting provided an overview of VentureLab — and highlighted six Georgia Tech technologies: one member company of the Advanced Technology Development Center (ATDC), two early-stage VentureLab companies and three technologies in earlier stages of company development.

The technologies highlighted at the California event included QcEpt Technologies, Jacket Micro Devices, Innovative Fluidics, Optiphonics, MEMScan, and GTronix.