Demyanek named EHS VP

Michael Taggart
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As Georgia Tech’s research portfolio continues to evolve, the administration is taking additional steps to ensure that it is not only meeting compliance obligations at the state and federal levels, but also planning for an increase in sponsored activity in biotechnology and bioscience.

Last fall, a team of environmental health and safety directors from several major research universities recommended that Tech enhance its biological safety program to support the unique needs of research in the biological sciences. In May, the administration made the decision to separate this office from Georgia Tech Facilities and establish it as an independent entity, reporting to the vice president of Administration and Finance. A search committee located Mark Demyanek, who had worked for the University System of Georgia’s Board of Regents since 1995, initially as director of environmental health and safety, then as assistant vice chancellor for compliance and operations.

Now, as assistant vice president for Tech’s Office of Environmental Health and Safety, Demyanek leads a department that provides technical assistance, oversight, training, consultation and other specialized services to assist the Tech community in meeting its public health, safety and environmental protection responsibilities. “Mark is widely respected within the University System of Georgia as well as several related state agencies,” said Steve Swant, vice president for Administration and Finance. “His experience and capabilities will help the Institute achieve its strategic goals, particularly as we move forward into a more specialized area.”
Savannah’s Moore receives PECASE award

Elliot Moore, an assistant professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology’s Savannah campus, has been recognized as one of the nation’s top young scientists with a Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE) award.

The PECASE program recognizes outstanding scientists and engineers who, early in their careers, show exceptional potential for leadership at the frontiers of knowledge. This award is the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on scientists and engineers beginning their independent careers.

“It’s a very strong indicator that we’re on the right path and helps to stimulate our desire to continue pushing for excellence,” Moore said.

Moore’s primary research interests are in finding objective markers in speech that can be used to characterize the human condition. His current research centers around the analysis of vocal affect as it relates to the overall mental state of the speaker. He has done work on analyzing the effectiveness of objective speech features as indicators of clinical depression and is continuing to explore other types of emotional disorders and types of affective expression. His research will be helpful in analyzing speech for emotion and stress, detecting deception, improving human-computer interaction in dialogue applications and clinical applications related to emotional and vocal disorders.

Moore earned his bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees at Georgia Tech from 1998 to 2003. He joined the faculty in 2004.

“From about my third year in college, my goal was to become a college professor,” he said. “The campus at Georgia Tech Savannah gave me an opportunity to be affiliated with Georgia Tech while still being placed in a new environment where I could carve out a unique identity from just being a graduate student at the Atlanta campus.”

Moore teaches two classes this semester—one undergraduate with about 30 students and one graduate course, with 24 students at the Atlanta campus and two in Savannah. He will teach one class next semester.

Moore’s winning of the NSF’s Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER) award in 2005 contributed directly to his present recognition. The White House accepts nominees for PECASE from other agencies and groups that issue early career awards. Moore says the NSF nominated him.

He is a member of IEEE’s Signal Processing Society, the Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society and the Acoustical Society of America.

Robert Nesmith in Institute Communication and Public Affairs contributed to this article.

Georgia Tech receives a PECASE award for Elliot Moore. Moore is a member of the prestigious Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE). This award recognizes outstanding scientists and engineers who demonstrate exceptional potential for leadership at the frontiers of knowledge. Moore’s research focuses on the analysis of vocal affect and its relation to mental state, particularly early signs of depression. His work aims to develop objective speech markers that can be used to characterize human conditions, aiding in the detection of emotional disorders. His recent accolades represent the culmination of his efforts in a rigorous and multi-faceted research career.
member who had held several administrative positions in LCC meant that he had institutional knowledge and depth of experience with curricular issues as well as an excellent understanding of the combination of experience and skills, coupled with the fact that he is a very approachable, personable individual, means that he will be sorely missed.”

McGuire was here to see the college’s information technology use bloom, as the “Communications” part of LCC trended toward an electronic focus. “I saw it in the ’90s,” he said. “A big part of communications would include the digital and video realms.” “The associate dean for undergraduate studies will face the major challenge of continuing the double-digit increase we have experienced in the past three years in admission of freshmen that designate IAC majors.”

Regarding “Part of the strategy for maintaining this enrollment surge will include incorporation of additional electronic resources into recruitment via podcast, student-produced videos and blogosphere.” “The assistant dean for IT must continue to find ways to add electronic mobility requirements in laptop, PDA and remote access. She or he will continue the development of major initiatives, such as one with Google to provide the Google Earth enterprise version to the college, T-Square electronic project, and the server-based statistical calculating project.”

Even with the responsibilities of associate dean, McGuire has continued to teach—now a gradu- ate course in the fall, and one undergraduate in the spring. “It’s a way of keeping your mind on the pulse, really. It’s better than a focus group,” he said. “We have remarkably bright, hardworking students. That is the most memorable part of working here. I’ve seen a much more diverse student body; a much more international student body,” he said. “Every single language course we offer is full to overflowing. Our undergraduates are very sophisticated, and understand the global market that will be waiting for them.”

During his tenure, he has seen the student body evolve along with the college. He credits the unique liberal arts program with drawing a different kind of student. They study public policy, and learn from city planners, statisticians and even philosophy professors. “We’ve got everything liberal arts companies have, but what’s unique is how we’ve put it together,” McGuire said. “Modern education is about breaking down the barriers of discipline.”

He currently is involved with his “final project” at Tech—working ing project.”

McGuire says that although he is retiring, it doesn’t mean he’ll stop volunteering. “I’ll volunteer to work with Atlanta’s homeless population and the Coalition for the Homeless,” he said. “My wife and my family have been doing this for 20 years.”

Rosser says McGuire will be honored at the College’s holiday party Dec. 5. A search committee is viewing possible candidates for the two new positions. Nominations as applications are due to the committee by Dec. 3. For more information, contact Judy Alexander Collier, Ivan Allen College Dean’s Office, Haberham, mail code O525.

For more information...

IN BRIEF:
Success in communication
The College of Computing’s Communications Department won MarCom awards this fall for five of its seven entries.

The department won two platinum awards for its “New Face of Computing” brand and publicity campaigns: two gold, for the college’s overall Web site and the home page design; and one honorable mention in speaking with on-screen writing for the inaugural State of the College address.

Awards are presented each fall by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals. For more information, visit www.marcomawards.com.

Clark honored for admissions
The Alumni Association awarded Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admission Rick Clark “The Best Friend of Georgia Tech” award at the annual Leadership Georgia Tech conference in early November.

Clark was cited for his professionalism, enthusiasm and effectiveness in recruiting, as well as for expanding the relationships and programs between the Office of Undergraduate Admission and the Alumni Association. The award is presented annually to a non-alumnus who is dedicated to the Tech community.

Tech’s global campus recognized
The Association of International Educators, named Tech as one of four recipients of its fifth annual award for internationalizing the campus.

For more information, visit www.nafsa.org.

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Demyanek, cont’d from page 1

bio-intensive research environment.” Demyanek said he wanted to change the perception of EHS from a purely a policing agency to one that helps researchers coordinate and facilitate their research activities.”

“When people think of EHS, they traditionally think of hazardous materials, safe work areas and proper safety equipment,” he said. “But it goes beyond that: indoor air quality, outdoor environment, air emissions and all the environmental issues associated with renovation and construction projects.”

“There is an enforcement responsibility that comes along with EHS, but my goal is to provide a service-oriented organization that’s knowledgeable about the compliance aspects of what we do at Georgia Tech, and coach our customers on achieving compliance. To not slow down research, but to ensure we don’t stub our toes on any of the regulations.”

In fact, he added, EHS is gearing up to prepare all Georgia Tech units for the upcoming U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Self Audit pro- gram, scheduled to begin this spring. Deans, department heads and unit managers can expect to be contacted in the coming months by EHS members with information about what to expect.

And, for Demyanek, it’s a return to the cam- pus where he earned his master’s degree in Technology and Science Policy.

“I have always had a strong appreciation for the incredible range and depth of research teaching and outreach activities that Georgia Tech is involved with,” he said.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Environmental Health and Safety
www.safety.gatech.edu

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For more information...

Center for Geographic Information Systems
www.cog.gatech.edu/cgis

WWW.WHISTLE.GATECH.EDU

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