COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING VP NAMED

Following a national search, President G. P. “Bud” Peterson has named Michael Warden, a 30-year public relations executive and academician, as the Institute’s next vice president for Communications and Marketing. He will start his new appointment Dec. 1.

In this position, Warden will be responsible for developing the strategic communications plans and programs that help position the Institute as the most highly respected technology-focused learning institution in the world. He will serve as a member of the president’s cabinet and report directly to the president.

Warden is currently the associate vice chancellor for strategic communications at the University of Colorado at Boulder. “Michael will be a great addition to Georgia Tech and the Office of Communications and Marketing,” Peterson said. “I know him to be an outstanding public relations professional and a sound advisor. I want to welcome him to Tech, and to thank Dene Sheehane and the search committee that spent the better part of three months evaluating an excellent applicant pool. Their recommendations were very valuable and guided me in the selection process.”

Warden’s professional career was shaped in the military. He served in the U.S. Air Force for 22 years, retiring in 1997 as director of public affairs for the Air Force Materiel Command in Dayton, Ohio. Warden then transitioned to higher education, working as a visiting assistant professor at Southern Methodist University before joining the University System of Texas as its executive director for public affairs. He began his tenure at the University of Colorado in 2007.

“I am deeply honored at this appointment and excited to join one of the world’s premier technology-focused research universities,” Warden said. “The vision embodied in Georgia Tech’s strategic plan and its dynamic leadership under President Peterson and his team make this a peerless opportunity in American higher education. I look forward to working with the faculty, staff, students, alumni(ae) and the leadership team to take Tech’s messages, stories and support to new levels globally.”

Warden earned his bachelor’s degree in journalism from Texas Tech University, where he was editor of the student newspaper. He has a master’s in journalism from the University of Texas at Austin and a master’s degree in national security studies from the National Defense University in Washington, D.C.

He has completed post-graduate work in mass communication research at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is an active member of the Public Relations Society of America and the incoming chair of its Counselors to Higher Education.

“We were fortunate to have an outstanding applicant pool,” Sheehane said. “The committee worked hard throughout the process, and I am confident that we have the best candidate for Georgia Tech in Michael Warden. His professional experience is an excellent fit with our campus environment.”

www.gatech.edu/comm

$5 Million Commitment to Campaign Unveiled

The Nov. 12 campus launch of the public phase of Campaign Georgia Tech featured an announcement that provided tremendous momentum to the campaign’s faculty/staff component: an anonymous $5 million commitment from a current faculty member.

The crowd of several hundred students, faculty and staff members who gathered in the Student Center Ballroom for the launch event was elated to hear Anderson D. Smith, senior vice provost for academic affairs, announce the commitment, which has been designated for one of the Institute’s academic programs.

“This very generous and transformative commitment will be added to the $3.8 million that faculty and staff contributed and the $225 million that faculty and staff have pledged,” said Provost Jere W. Morehead. “This is a huge and exciting milestone in the more than $1 billion that we hope to raise in the new phase of this campaign.”

The campaign begins today with an ambitious goal of raising $3.8 billion to strengthen Georgia Tech, build its endowment and provide opportunities for students and faculty.

The funding will be used to support faculty hiring, create 50 new endowed chairs, build a state-of-the-art educational center for STEM disciplines, and create the Georgia Institute of Science and Technology, a public policy institute.

“The support of our friends and alumni is key to the success of this campaign,” said President G. P. “Bud” Peterson. “This $5 million commitment is a wonderful example of how much Georgia Tech values teaching and research.”

Anderson D. Smith, senior vice provost for academic affairs, speaks at the campus launch of the public phase of Campaign Georgia Tech.

www.gatech.edu/comm

THE WHISTLE
Institute

Proposals Approved During Regents Meeting

At this month’s meeting, the University System Board of Regents voted on a number of items that impact Georgia Tech and its operations. Each proposal was initially reviewed and approved in committee prior to deliberation by the entire Board. A summary of the Board’s decisions follows.

- APPROVED: Authorization to proceed with the demolition of the Bill Moore Tennis Center and the construction of a new tennis facility, funded by the Georgia Tech Athletic Association.
- APPROVED: Authorization to proceed with the construction of a transit hub, to be located at Ferst Drive between the Weber Building and the Student Center Commons.
- APPROVED: Naming the planned indoor football practice facility in recognition of Mary R. and John F. Brock III.
- APPROVED: Naming the planned tennis complex in recognition of Ken Byers.
- APPROVED: Naming the indoor tennis courts within the new tennis complex in recognition of the late Bill Moore.
- APPROVED: The Regents met as a “Committee of the Whole” to review academic affairs items; in particular, the applications of both the University of Georgia and Georgia Southern University to establish undergraduate degrees in mechanical engineering, civil engineering and electrical engineering. The Board voted 9-8 to approve both applications.

www.usg.edu

First Woman to Present Gegenheimer Lecture

When it comes to responding to disasters, there are limits to what humans can do — limits that don’t apply to robots.

This year’s Gegenheimer Lecture on Innovation, “Robots to the Rescue!,” will be presented by Robin Murphy, whose work focuses on artificial intelligence, robotics and human-robot interactions. “Professor Murphy is unique in that she has taken her research on search-and-rescue robots and applied it to real disasters, such as that at the World Trade Center,” said Richard Salant, Georgia Power Distinguished Professor of Mechanical Engineering and chair of the Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering’s Distinguished Lecture Committee. “She was able to see how robots actually performed in the field, and from this learned what must be improved.”

The lecture will be held on Dec. 2 at 11 a.m. at the Ferst Center. Murphy, who earned her bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees from Georgia Tech, will be the first woman to present the lecture since it was established in 1993.

The talk will explore how robots can reduce deaths, accelerate damage assessment and minimize economic downtime after a disaster. Murphy is currently Raytheon Professor of Computer Science and Engineering, and directs the Center for Robot-Assisted Search and Rescue and its Robotists Without Borders program at Texas A&M University.

“Robin Murphy’s work exemplifies how engineers innovative to benefit humanity,” said William Wepler, Eugene C. Gwaltney Jr. Woodruff School Chair. “I encourage the Georgia Tech community to attend what I think will be a fabulous lecture.”

The event is free and open to the public. A reception will be held following the lecture.

www.me.gatech.edu
France-Atlanta Program Comes to Campus

This fall, members of the Tech community will have an opportunity to enjoy French culture without having to spring for a trip across the Atlantic.

A program offered by Georgia Tech and the Consulate General of France in Atlanta will bring a bit of French culture to Atlanta and Tech’s campus from Nov. 29 to Dec. 2.

“The range of events in research, culture, business and humanitarian outreach is exciting, and is oriented around access to Tech faculty, staff and students,” said Steven McLaughlin, vice provost for international initiatives. “We hope everyone takes full advantage of what is available.”

The program, “France-Atlanta 2010: Together Toward Innovation,” will feature a series of events that focus on French and U.S. collaborations in four major areas: science, business, culture and humanitarianism.

“I am very excited to offer these events, the breadth of which reflects the vast potential for meaningful collaboration between our two countries,” said Pascal Le Deunff, Counsellor General of France in Atlanta.

Several of the events will be held at locations across Tech’s campus. Faculty and staff are encouraged to attend. (For more information, see the box at right.)

All events are free and open to the public.

“It is an honor and a great opportunity for Georgia Tech to be at the epicenter of this event,” said Georgia Tech-Lorraine President Yves Berthelot, who helped organize the program.

“What better way can we celebrate Georgia Tech-Lorraine’s 20th anniversary than to bring France to Atlanta and to our own campus?”

www.global.gatech.edu/france-atlanta

Tech Staffers Honored at Annual Luncheon

This year, more than 180 Tech staffers members made professional development a priority by participating in one of the Institute’s 11 certificate programs.

The staff members were honored during the annual Staff Training Awards Luncheon, which was held on Nov. 11.

“It’s easy to go with the flow and not do anything, but getting out of your comfort zone [and learning new skills] requires you to be proactive,” said Rosalind Meyers, vice president of Campus Services, who spoke at the event. “I congratulate you for your accomplishments.”

Graduates from the following certificate programs were recognized:

- Office Professional
- Management and Supervisory Development
- GT Financial Specialist
- Emerging Leaders
- GT Financial Planning Certificate program

Awards Luncheon.

www.training.gatech.edu
In her 20-plus years at Georgia Tech, Jackie Nemeth has tried her hand at several jobs. And it all started while she was in college.

“During my summers off and winter breaks from college, I worked as a clerk in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE), which evolved into a full-time position. Although she’s been in ECE ever since, Jackie Nemeth

coordinating activities for the Georgia Tech Human Resources Department in the Georgia Tech Research Institute,” Nemeth said. “After graduation, I took a job with the News Bureau at Tech, where I worked until 1991.”

After a few months away, she accepted a temporary position with the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE), which evolved into a full-time position. Although she’s been in ECE ever since, Nemeth has worn many hats in the unit.

“For many of my years here, I’ve done other things in addition to communications work, including assisting with the school’s reapportionment, promotion and tenure process; coordinating activities for the Georgia Tech Analog Consortium; and working with our faculty honors committee,” Nemeth added. When Gary May became the school chair of ECE, he decided to form a communications office, which she has led ever since. Recently, The Whistle sat down with Nemeth to learn more about her.

Did you always know you wanted to work in communications?

When I was deciding on which major to pursue in college, it was between journalism and English. After taking an introduction to journalism class my sophomore year of high school and working on the school newspaper for two years, my decision was much easier.

What does your job entail?

I coordinate public relations and communications for both internal and external audiences. This includes website content, official presentations and publications (e.g., the annual report and student recruitment brochures). I also handle all official ECE social media activities.

What do you enjoy most and least about your job?

The best part of my job is making the accomplishments of our faculty, students and staff better known. The part that I like the least is when sad news must be delivered. I've seen Tech retire and visitors on a calendar-year basis.

What are three things everyone should do while working at Tech?

Take advantage of special events that are held at Georgia Tech. I've heard people like Nelson Mandela speak, and I served as a volunteer during the Olympics, which leads to my second suggestion. Volunteer in some way. It is a great way to meet other people from other parts of campus and leads to my third suggestion. Get to know people from different countries. Learning about different cultures and customs adds a whole other dimension to working here.

Where is the best place to eat lunch on and off campus, and what do you order?

I don't go to lunch off campus very much anymore. Lastly, I've enjoyed the new additions to the Student Center Food Court — Zaya Mediterranean and Cafe Spice. I'm not a "stick with one menu item" type of person; I like trying different things at both places.

If you weren't in your current line of work, what would you be doing?

I would probably be teaching high school English or history, or working for a medical nonprofit or an international relief agency.

What piece of technology could you not live without?

My laptop. I still marvel at the fact that I can take it with me anywhere and have access to just about everything I need.

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Now of Anyone We Should Profile?

Do you know of someone who would be good to profile for our faculty and staff Q&A feature (above)? If you do, please e-mail suggestions to editor@comm.gatech.edu.

CLASSIFIEDS

FURNITURE/APPLIANCES

Full-sized, 3-section couch with large, oversized matching chair. Bagie with multicolored throw pillows, $150. Pieces are in good condition. Call 404-384-3933 or e-mail carol.york@gtri.gatech.edu.

Maytag Legacy Series washer and dryer. Everything you need is included to hook you right up and start using these units! No scratches or dents. $650. Call 404-939-1048.

Like new, 3-piece Macy’s chocolate microsuede queen sleeper sofa, chair and storage ottoman. Sleeper bed has never been slept on $1750. Call 404-939-1048.

Heavy-duty swivel TV stand for both CRT and flat panel TVs. Can hold well over 100 lbs, has a divider shelf for stereo/DVR/VCR components with glass door and side storage shelves for DVDs/VHS. Some scratches and scuffs from normal wear. Call 404-939-1048.

MISCELLANEOUS

Interested in carpooling? Looking for a ride from Stillwater Road/Mars Hill Road in the Highlands Development. Working hours 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; flexible hours 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. E-mail to Mmans40@comcast.net.

Eureka “The Boss” SmartVac vacuum. Top-rated by Consumer Reports. Carpet and floor selection, like new, 18 months old. $50 OBO. Call 404-894-1390 or e-mail bruce.herson@library.gatech.edu.

Free yellow jacket nest removal. Nests to be used for research at Georgia Tech. Call 385-6311 or e-mail michael.jacob@mgmt.gatech.edu.

HP 12c financial calculator — hardly used $50. Can be used for research at Georgia Tech. Free yellow jacket nest removal. Nests to be used for research at Georgia Tech. Call 385-6311 or e-mail michael.jacob@mgmt.gatech.edu.


