Agreement Holds Students, Faculty Accountable

AMELIA PAVLIK COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

After the results of a May 2009 Student Experience Survey were released, one thing became obvious to the campus community — students at Georgia Tech felt like student-faculty interaction wasn’t a priority.

To their credit, the students have taken a step toward improving the situation, with the creation of the Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement (SFEA), which was developed by the Student Government Association (SGA). The document replaces the Student Bill of Academic Rights and goes into effect this summer. “As students, we must acknowledge our responsibility in building a positive classroom environment and promoting good stewardship of this duty,” said John Miller, chair of the student-faculty development committee. “Improving student-faculty relations has been an ongoing goal of SGA for more than two years, and we are finally seeing a lot of improvement.” Miller and Austen Edwards, SGA’s vice president of academic affairs, have worked to build on efforts made last year to bring students and faculty members together by completing the agreement. “The Student Bill of Rights was one-way and the new document is two-way — it contains expectations for both students and faculty,” said Anderson Smith, senior vice provost for academic affairs. “There was no record that the original bill of rights had been vetted through the academic faculty senate, but this new document has been endorsed by the senate and the undergraduate and graduate student government.”

The Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

Here is a sample of the 10 expectations that are provided for both parties:

Students have the right to expect
• to consult with faculty outside of usual classroom times through regularly scheduled office hours or appointment.
• to have reasonable access to grading instruments and/or grading criteria.
• to have formal pre-approved absences or formal pre-approved absences for official matters of academic concern.
• full attendance at examination, mid-terms, presentations, studios and laboratories, with the expectation of completion (when applicable).
• to have faculty to adhere to formal Institute policies, rules and regulations, such as the Week Preceding Final Examinations Policy and the confidentiality policies of FERPA.

www.sga.gatech.edu/expectations

Online Resource for Summer Camps Now Available

AMELIA PAVLIK COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

The task of trying to find the right summer program for your child has just gotten a little easier, thanks to the combined efforts of the Office of Human Resources, the Office of the Provost and the Campus Recreation Center.

A new online resource has been launched featuring information about on-campus programs for elementary through high school students, in addition to a comprehensive database of nearly 1,000 summer camps in the Atlanta area (which can only be accessed by Georgia Tech employees). “The new Summer Camp Guide is part of Georgia Tech’s ongoing commitment to find ways to support our faculty, staff and students as they try to balance work and family commitments,” said Marita Sullivan, senior director of Human Resources.

The Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

Here is a sample of the 10 expectations that are provided for both parties:

Students have the right to expect
• to consult with faculty outside of usual classroom times through regularly scheduled office hours or appointment.
• to have reasonable access to grading instruments and/or grading criteria.
• to have formal pre-approved absences or formal pre-approved absences for official matters of academic concern.
• full attendance at examination, mid-terms, presentations, studios and laboratories, with the expectation of completion (when applicable).
• to have faculty to adhere to formal Institute policies, rules and regulations, such as the Week Preceding Final Examinations Policy and the confidentiality policies of FERPA.

www.sga.gatech.edu/expectations

Online Resource for Summer Camps Now Available

AMELIA PAVLIK COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

The task of trying to find the right summer program for your child has just gotten a little easier, thanks to the combined efforts of the Office of Human Resources, the Office of the Provost and the Campus Recreation Center.

A new online resource has been launched featuring information about on-campus programs for elementary through high school students, in addition to a comprehensive database of nearly 1,000 summer camps in the Atlanta area (which can only be accessed by Georgia Tech employees). “The new Summer Camp Guide is part of Georgia Tech’s ongoing commitment to find ways to support our faculty, staff and students as they try to balance work and family commitments,” said Marita Sullivan, senior director of Human Resources.

The Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

Here is a sample of the 10 expectations that are provided for both parties:

Students have the right to expect
• to consult with faculty outside of usual classroom times through regularly scheduled office hours or appointment.
• to have reasonable access to grading instruments and/or grading criteria.
• to have formal pre-approved absences or formal pre-approved absences for official matters of academic concern.
• full attendance at examination, mid-terms, presentations, studios and laboratories, with the expectation of completion (when applicable).
• to have faculty to adhere to formal Institute policies, rules and regulations, such as the Week Preceding Final Examinations Policy and the confidentiality policies of FERPA.

www.sga.gatech.edu/expectations

Online Resource for Summer Camps Now Available

AMELIA PAVLIK COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

The task of trying to find the right summer program for your child has just gotten a little easier, thanks to the combined efforts of the Office of Human Resources, the Office of the Provost and the Campus Recreation Center.

A new online resource has been launched featuring information about on-campus programs for elementary through high school students, in addition to a comprehensive database of nearly 1,000 summer camps in the Atlanta area (which can only be accessed by Georgia Tech employees). “The new Summer Camp Guide is part of Georgia Tech’s ongoing commitment to find ways to support our faculty, staff and students as they try to balance work and family commitments,” said Marita Sullivan, senior director of Human Resources.

The Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

Here is a sample of the 10 expectations that are provided for both parties:

Students have the right to expect
• to consult with faculty outside of usual classroom times through regularly scheduled office hours or appointment.
• to have reasonable access to grading instruments and/or grading criteria.
• to have formal pre-approved absences or formal pre-approved absences for official matters of academic concern.
• full attendance at examination, mid-terms, presentations, studios and laboratories, with the expectation of completion (when applicable).
• to have faculty to adhere to formal Institute policies, rules and regulations, such as the Week Preceding Final Examinations Policy and the confidentiality policies of FERPA.

www.sga.gatech.edu/expectations

Online Resource for Summer Camps Now Available

AMELIA PAVLIK COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

The task of trying to find the right summer program for your child has just gotten a little easier, thanks to the combined efforts of the Office of Human Resources, the Office of the Provost and the Campus Recreation Center.

A new online resource has been launched featuring information about on-campus programs for elementary through high school students, in addition to a comprehensive database of nearly 1,000 summer camps in the Atlanta area (which can only be accessed by Georgia Tech employees). “The new Summer Camp Guide is part of Georgia Tech’s ongoing commitment to find ways to support our faculty, staff and students as they try to balance work and family commitments,” said Marita Sullivan, senior director of Human Resources.

The Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

Here is a sample of the 10 expectations that are provided for both parties:

Students have the right to expect
• to consult with faculty outside of usual classroom times through regularly scheduled office hours or appointment.
• to have reasonable access to grading instruments and/or grading criteria.
• to have formal pre-approved absences or formal pre-approved absences for official matters of academic concern.
• full attendance at examination, mid-terms, presentations, studios and laboratories, with the expectation of completion (when applicable).
• to have faculty to adhere to formal Institute policies, rules and regulations, such as the Week Preceding Final Examinations Policy and the confidentiality policies of FERPA.

www.sga.gatech.edu/expectations

Online Resource for Summer Camps Now Available

AMELIA PAVLIK COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

The task of trying to find the right summer program for your child has just gotten a little easier, thanks to the combined efforts of the Office of Human Resources, the Office of the Provost and the Campus Recreation Center.

A new online resource has been launched featuring information about on-campus programs for elementary through high school students, in addition to a comprehensive database of nearly 1,000 summer camps in the Atlanta area (which can only be accessed by Georgia Tech employees). “The new Summer Camp Guide is part of Georgia Tech’s ongoing commitment to find ways to support our faculty, staff and students as they try to balance work and family commitments,” said Marita Sullivan, senior director of Human Resources.

The Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

Here is a sample of the 10 expectations that are provided for both parties:

Students have the right to expect
• to consult with faculty outside of usual classroom times through regularly scheduled office hours or appointment.
• to have reasonable access to grading instruments and/or grading criteria.
• to have formal pre-approved absences or formal pre-approved absences for official matters of academic concern.
• full attendance at examination, mid-terms, presentations, studios and laboratories, with the expectation of completion (when applicable).
• to have faculty to adhere to formal Institute policies, rules and regulations, such as the Week Preceding Final Examinations Policy and the confidentiality policies of FERPA.
Institute

AMELIA PAVLIK
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

GT FIRE Sparks Innovation Among Faculty

Inspiring innovation in research and education is at the heart of Georgia Tech's strategic plan, which is why the offices of the Executive Vice President for Research and the Provost have created the Georgia Tech Fund for Innovation in Research and Education (GT FIRE).

"The program is off to a great start," said Rafael L. Bras, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. "The submitted proposals mesh well with our strategic plan, and that was our hope." The program has two purposes. The first aims to facilitate planning for large extramural proposals — those that are of strategic value to the Institute and have more than $300,000 in direct costs per year. The second provides support for feasibility studies of transformative ideas in research and/or education.

"Innovation in research is critical for us to lead and set the science, technology and policy agenda for the United States and the world," said Steve Cross, executive vice president for research. "I am happy to support GT FIRE in stimulating faculty thinking and creativity."

Funding of up to $4,000 per group is available on an ongoing basis for large extramural proposals and can be requested for costs associated with workshops, meetings, retreats and limited travel. Funding of up to $40,000 for up to two years is available for transformative research and education proposals for costs associated with feasibility studies.

Two proposals have received funding to assist in planning for extramural grants including one from Ken Sandhage, on behalf of the Materials Council, for a workshop titled, "The Future of Materials Characterization at Georgia Tech," and another from Bojan Petrovic, Glenn Sjoden and Farzad Rahzema of the School of Mechanical Engineering to facilitate planning for a $7.5 million, multidiscipline, multi-institution, Tech-led Department of Energy Integrated Research Project research proposal.

Out of an initial 42 submitted transformative proposals, the following three research-related ideas and four education-related ideas were selected for funding:

For Research

• Determinants of 'Innocence': Modeling Exoneration Via Innocence Project Data, Kobi Abayomi, Industrial and Systems Engineering
• Development of Aptamers for Gene Targeting, Francesca Storici, School of Biology
• Epigenomic Divergence between Primates and Evolution of Human Disease, Soonji Yi, School of Biology

For Education

• Educating a Biotechnology Policy and Security Workforce, Margaret Kosal, School of International Affairs, and Robert Butera, School of Electrical and Computer Engineering
• Advancing Science Process Skill Development through Inquiry-based Biology Laboratory Classes, Cara Gormally and Joseph Montoya, School of Biology
• Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Design Minor, David Rosen, School of Mechanical Engineering
• Technology Commercialization and Innovation in the Global Economy, Marie Thursby, College of Management

Submissions were reviewed by a committee consisting of faculty members from across campus, with Ravi Bellamkonda, associate vice president for research, and Ray Vito, vice provost for graduate and undergraduate studies, leading the group. "The GT FIRE program is the first of many initiatives on campus to foster and stimulate innovation," Vito said. "There were more worthy ideas than we could support. But our offices will work to support these programs in other ways."

To apply, contact Monique Tavares at monique@gatech.edu.

AGREEMENT, continued from page 1

"We are all on the same team with the same goal — effective teaching that leads to excellent student learning," he added.

Vice Provost for Graduate and Undergraduate Studies Ray Vito also thinks that the new agreement is more balanced than the bill of rights.

"I think the expectations are critical to creating the environment that we all want to see at Georgia Tech," he added.

In the months to come, SGA hopes to integrate the SFEA into course syllabi, CETL curricula, the Georgia Tech Catalog and the GT 1000 curriculum.

"As students, we hope this document will not be seen as a final arbiter in disputes but rather as a foundation of common understanding for ongoing discussions in the classroom," Edwards said. "We must rely on individual students and faculty members to take the initiative and work together to redefine the classroom culture."

www.sga.gatech.edu/expectations

CAMPUS, continued from page 1

The website allows users to search for the perfect camp in a variety of ways — by age, camp specialty and location. The database will be available until June 15. If you have any questions related to the website, contact Kim Watkins at kimberly.watkins@ohr.gatech.edu.

www.ohr.gatech.edu/summcamps

Published biweekly throughout the academic year and the summer by Georgia Tech Communications & Marketing

Editor: Amelia Pavlik
Photos: Rob Prell, unless noted

Calendar submissions emailed to editor@comm.gatech.edu, or faxed to 404-894-7243 must be sent at least 10 days prior to desired publication date. Classified submissions are on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, call 609-385-4142.

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

Georgia Tech
Communications & Marketing
Warldaw Center
177 North Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0181

Peg Ziolkowski, "Atomic Complexity" as part of the HTS Monday Afternoon Seminar Series. The event will be held at 4 p.m. in room 104, Old Civil Engineering Building.

www.chemistry.gatech.edu

April 11
Joseph Masco of the University of Chicago will speak on "Atomic Cinema. The Significance of Film for the Constitution of the U.S. Nuclear Complex" as part of the HTS Monday Afternoon Seminar Series. The event will begin at 4 p.m. in room 104, Old Civil Engineering Building.

www.chemistry.gatech.edu

Maria Klaes will lecture on "Women in Computing and Engineering: Is There a Problem?" as part of the 2011 George K. Ewing Distinguished Lecture at 11 a.m. in the Van Leer Building Auditorium. She will speak on "The Future of Engineering and Why Innovation Matters."

www.ece.gatech.edu

April 8
The School of Chemistry and Biochemistry welcomes Scripps Research Institute Professor M.G. Finn, who will speak on "Engineered Virus-Like Particles for Biomedicine and Catalysis" at 4 p.m. in room G3111, Molecular Science and Engineering Building.

www.chemistry.gatech.edu

April 6
As part of the Health Systems Seminar Series, Mark Cohen will lecture on "Clinical Integration: Trust Design of a Multisite Data Repository to Facilitate the Improvement of Patient Care" at 11 a.m. in suite 207, Health Systems Institute. Lunch will be served.

www.hsi.gatech.edu

April 7
Amir Aghdassi, president of Tektronix, will deliver the James R. Carver Distinguished Lecture at 11 a.m. in the Van Leer Building Auditorium. He will speak on "Focus on Japan: Crisis and Response" will feature a panel of experts who will discuss lessons from the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear crises. The event will be held at 4 p.m. in room 305, Global Learning Center.

www.hts.gatech.edu

April 4
www.chemistry.gatech.edu

AMELIA PAVLIK
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

GT FIRE Sparks Innovation Among Faculty

Inspiring innovation in research and education is at the heart of Georgia Tech’s strategic plan, which is why the offices of the Executive Vice President for Research and the Provost have created the Georgia Tech Fund for Innovation in Research and Education (GT FIRE).

“The program is off to a great start,” said Rafael L. Bras, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. “The submitted proposals mesh well with our strategic plan, and that was our hope.” The program has two purposes. The first aims to facilitate planning for large extramural proposals — those that are of strategic value to the Institute and have more than $300,000 in direct costs per year. The second provides support for feasibility studies of transformative ideas in research and/or education.

“Innovation in research is critical for us to lead and set the science, technology and policy agenda for the United States and the world,” said Steve Cross, executive vice president for research. “I am happy to support GT FIRE in stimulating faculty thinking and creativity.”

Funding of up to $4,000 per group is available on an ongoing basis for large extramural proposals and can be requested for costs associated with workshops, meetings, retreats and limited travel. Funding of up to $40,000 for up to two years is available for transformative research and education proposals for costs associated with feasibility studies.

Two proposals have received funding to assist in planning for extramural grants including one from Ken Sandhage, on behalf of the Materials Council, for a workshop titled, “The Future of Materials Characterization at Georgia Tech,” and another from Bojan Petrovic, Glenn Sjoden and Farzad Rahzema of the School of Mechanical Engineering to facilitate planning for a $7.5 million, multidiscipline, multi-institution, Tech-led Department of Energy Integrated Research Project research proposal.

Out of an initial 42 submitted transformative proposals, the following three research-related ideas and four education-related ideas were selected for funding:

For Research

• Determinants of ‘Innocence’: Modeling Exoneration Via Innocence Project Data, Kobi Abayomi, Industrial and Systems Engineering
• Development of Aptamers for Gene Targeting, Francesca Storici, School of Biology
• Epigenomic Divergence between Primates and Evolution of Human Disease, Soonji Yi, School of Biology

For Education

• Educating a Biotechnology Policy and Security Workforce, Margaret Kosal, School of International Affairs, and Robert Butera, School of Electrical and Computer Engineering
• Advancing Science Process Skill Development through Inquiry-based Biology Laboratory Classes, Cara Gormally and Joseph Montoya, School of Biology
• Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Design Minor, David Rosen, School of Mechanical Engineering
• Technology Commercialization and Innovation in the Global Economy, Marie Thursby, College of Management

Submissions were reviewed by a committee consisting of faculty members from across campus, with Ravi Bellamkonda, associate vice president for research, and Ray Vito, vice provost for graduate and undergraduate studies, leading the group. “The GT FIRE program is the first of many initiatives on campus to foster and stimulate innovation,” Vito said. “There were more worthy ideas than we could support. But our offices will work to support these programs in other ways.”

To apply, contact Monique Tavares at monique@gatech.edu.

AGREEMENT, continued from page 1

“We are all on the same team with the same goal — effective teaching that leads to excellent student learning,” he added.

Vice Provost for Graduate and Undergraduate Studies Ray Vito also thinks that the new agreement is more balanced than the bill of rights.

“I think the expectations are critical to creating the environment that we all want to see at Georgia Tech,” he added.

In the months to come, SGA hopes to integrate the SFEA into course syllabi, CETL curricula, the Georgia Tech Catalog and the GT 1000 curriculum.

“As students, we hope this document will not be seen as a final arbiter in disputes but rather as a foundation of common understanding for ongoing discussions in the classroom,” Edwards said. “We must rely on individual students and faculty members to take the initiative and work together to redefine the classroom culture.”

www.sga.gatech.edu/expectations

CAMPUS, continued from page 1

The website allows users to search for the perfect camp in a variety of ways — by age, camp specialty and location. The database will be available until June 15. If you have any questions related to the website, contact Kim Watkins at kimberly.watkins@ohr.gatech.edu.

www.ohr.gatech.edu/summcamps

The Spring 2011 IMPACT Series will continue with Chairman and CEO of Coca-Cola Enterprises John F. Brock at 4:30 p.m. in LaGrage Auditorium, College of Management.

mgt.gatech.edu

Events continue on page 3
The construction along Skiles Walkway has done little to dampen the enthusiasm of the Georgia Tech Earth Day committee, which has relocated the springtime event to the Instructional Center Lawn — while retaining all of the events and activities that have made it a campus tradition.

Among the largest Earth Day events in the Southeast, the 14th annual event on April 22 is free and open to the public.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., attendees can learn about the environment and what they can do to increase a sustainable lifestyle through eco-friendly giveaways, recycling opportunities, an office supply and clothing exchange and more than 70 exhibits.

Other activities include e-waste recycling, where collectors will accept old electronics, cell phones and toner cartridges; the third-annual Clothing Swap; and the popular Earth Day Maze, which earns participants a commemorative T-shirt.

Preceding the Friday event is Think Green Week, from Monday, April 18, to Thursday, April 21, which will feature the following events:

• April 18: “Bag It,” a documentary exploring the life cycle of the ubiquitous plastic bag, at 6 p.m. in the Student Center Theater

• April 19: a book discussion and author signing for “Ents, Elves and In years past, Think Green Week has featured a Garden of Growth, a recycled-materials art project.

Eriador: The Environmental Vision of J.R.R. Tolkien” at 5 p.m. in the Student Center Commons

• April 20: an outdoor screening of the documentary “Crude: The Real Price of Oil” at 6 p.m. on the Instructional Center Lawn

• April 21: an eco-fashion show, Throwaway Runway, at 11 a.m. in Tech Rec

www.earthday.gatech.edu

Teaching, Learning Book Club Accepting Members

AMELIA PAVLIK
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

The name of Tech’s latest book club, The Grapes of Wrath, is more than just literary — it’s literal.

“Participants are encouraged to share teaching experiences, whether excellent or wrathful, while taking away new ideas from a lively and relaxed setting,” explained Linda Green of the School of Biology, one of the group’s founders.

Green and Chrissy Spencer, also of the School of Biology, got the idea for the club after attending a conference where they learned about a similar group that exists at Jacksonville University and discusses teaching- and learning-focused books.

“It was clear how much the Jacksonville University participants enjoyed the group and what a positive impact the club had on their jobs,” Green said.

So, the two approached the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning about offering something similar at Tech.

The group is co-supported by CETL and the Dean’s Office of the College of Sciences. Nancy Ruggeri, faculty development fellow for CETL, agreed to develop the club with Green and Spencer.

The club is open to both faculty and staff, and participants read one book each semester (one chapter is discussed during each meeting). Light refreshments are served.

Books are selected by the group’s co-facilitators: Green, Spencer and Ruggeri. This spring, the group read “What the Best College Teachers Do,” by Ken Bain.

Thanks to support from CETL, participants received a complimentary copy of the book, which the co-facilitators hope will be the case in future semesters.

Meetings are held on the first and third Friday of each month from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the Student Success Center. Members are asked to attend at least six of the eight meetings held during the semester.

New participants are welcome each semester. Readers interested in participating in the fall semester book club can contact Ruggeri at nancy.ruggeri@ceit.gatech.edu.

When the Whistle Blows

Honorific Title: Director of Undergraduate Student Success Programs

Blow on, storm Monarch of Tech’s mighty crew, We always form and stick. To your compelling call we’ll en true Till each triad has played. — A.D.A. Taken from “A Skillet to the Wind,” as printed in the 1934 Blueprint, Georgia Tech’s yearbook.

Wilford Putman Maintenance Worker Facilities

Brent Besen REPLACEMENT CHEMISTRY FACULTY

Freda Blanchard-Jobe CHEMISTRY FACULTY

Vivian A. Black CHEMISTRY FACULTY

Allan Bighinetti CHEMISTRY FACULTY

W. Marshall Lowell CHEMISTRY FACULTY

There is nothing that can replace the joy that a loved one or cherished friend brings to our lives. Each year the Georgia Tech community is deeply saddened by the loss of members of our own community. This spring, we will honor the memory of such individuals, faculty, and staff member who has died in the last year. Join us as we pay tribute to those individuals who have touched our lives and contributed to our community.

We Remember...
Prof's Teaching Reaches Students Beyond Tech

AMELIA PAVLIK
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Thanks to videoconferencing equipment and a few large-screen televisions, Jennifer Curtis is reaching out to students beyond Tech’s Midtown campus.

Curtis, an assistant professor in the School of Physics, participates in the Direct to Discovery program, a Georgia Tech Research Institute program that brings research labs into K-12 classrooms with a little help from technology.

The program’s goal is to help students better understand various areas of science and mathematics in a way that fosters ongoing interest in these areas.

“Since my lab is so interdisciplinary, we can tie into the curriculum of a physics, chemistry or biology class,” she said.

According to Kimm Bankston, the Winder-Barrow high school teacher Curtis has worked with, the demos have been quite successful and have stimulated student discussion about science that extend beyond the classroom.

“I think the program is an excellent way to inspire the next generation of engineers and scientists,” Curtis added.

Recently, The Whistle had an opportunity to learn more about Curtis and her approach to teaching. Here’s what we learned.

How did you get to Georgia Tech?

In 2006, both my husband and I were seeking tenure-track academic positions. In the end, it was clear that Tech was the best fit for our combined interests both professionally and personally.

How did you become interested in your area of teaching and research?

When I started out as an undergraduate at Columbus University, I wanted to pursue photography and writing. But I experienced a major creative block, which led me back to first love, science and mathematics. The next semester, I started taking physics classes and the rest is history. As for becoming a physicist, I always loved biology and after observing that some of the most interesting work done by physicists was in the area of biophysics, I knew where I needed to be.

In a few sentences, tell us a little bit about your research.

My research group studies the mechanics of cells and biomaterials. Also, we invent or develop unique tools to help answer questions about, for example, the coating of a cell.

What is your greatest challenge as an instructor, and how have you dealt with it?

Helping students figure out how to learn and study effectively is always a challenge. For example, there is always a large group of students who work very hard and spend vast amounts of time studying for my introductory physics course. Yet, their performance on tests does not reflect their efforts. I am experimenting with how to instruct students to get to the point where they can internalize and comprehend the difference between deeply understanding how and why they solve problems a certain way versus superficially memorizing or accepting a concept or problem-solving strategy in physics.

What piece of technology could you not live without as an instructor?

I think a tablet PC works wonders for large classroom lecture halls.

Where is the best place to grab lunch and what do you order?

My favorite place used to be Bobby and June’s, but it recently closed. I’d order the Salisbury steak with a side or two of vegetables.

Tell me something unusual about yourself.

When I was younger, I was a competitive épée fencer and trained several hours a day. I love good food (pasta, Chinese, Mexican, etc.) and playing cards.

Engineering Dean Search Committee Is Finalizing Visits

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

In honor of Tech’s 125th birthday year, we’re partnering with Georgia Tech Alumni Magazine to highlight a piece of Tech history. This issue’s topic: one of the most important scientific books ever written.

The following excerpt is number 4 on the list “125 Pieces of Tech History,” featured in the September/October 2010 issue of Georgia Tech Alumni Magazine:

The Georgia Tech Library added a leather-bound, second-edition copy of Isaac Newton’s “Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica” to its rare-book collection in 1999. A librarian told the Alumni Magazine at the time that it was one of only 750 copies printed by Cambridge University Press in 1733. First and third editions of the work, in which Newton presented the law of universal gravitation and three laws of motion, are also owned by the library.

www.provost.gatech.edu/engineering

Time to RSVP

Celebrate the outstanding achievements of fellow colleagues at the annual Faculty/Staff Honors Luncheon on April 19 from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom. General admission is $14/person. For more information regarding the awards and to RSVP, visit www.events.gatech.edu