New IEN Links Multiple Campus Centers

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

To leverage existing research expertise and resources in support of strategic Institute initiatives, Executive Vice President for Research Stephen Cross has announced the formation of the Institute for Electronics and Nanotechnology (IEN).

The new interdisciplinary research institute consolidates multiple electronics and nanotechnology research centers and related programs into an organization designed to enhance support for rapidly growing programs spanning biomedicine, materials, electronics and nanotechnology.

“While each existing center will continue to be responsible for its own specific programs, IEN will provide a single point of entry for industry and government organizations that seek to leverage Georgia Tech’s intellectual capabilities and a projection point for greater thought leadership in this significant research domain,” Cross said. “From a practical standpoint, we can also maximize cost efficiencies by sharing equipment and facilities, while more effectively utilizing current personnel to facilitate more rapid expansion of the research.”

The IEN will be led by Executive Director Mark Allen. Under his leadership, it will focus on integrating existing center personnel and equipment into the Marcus Nanotechnology Building and other nearby spaces.

According to Cross, IEN builds on the vision and leadership established by Nanotechnology Research Center Director James Meindl, who has positioned Georgia Tech as a global leader in this area. “Georgia Tech applauds his dedicated leadership and insight, which will both play a key role in the Institute’s renewal of related NSF-funded programs,” Cross said. Patterned after the highly successful Institute for Bioengineering and Bioscience, which is comprised of 15 different research centers, IEN will include the following centers and research programs:

- Center for Compound Semiconductors
- Center for MEMS and Microsystems Technologies
- Georgia Electronic Design Center
- Georgia Tech Quantum Institute
- Georgia Tech Research Institute’s research in microelectronics and nanotechnology
- Interconnect Focus Center
- Interconnect and Packaging Center

New Travel, Expense Reimbursement System Launches

AMELIA PAVLIK COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Gone are the days of submitting your travel authorizations or expense reports using a paper-based system.

Last week, Business Services launched a new Web-based system for submitting this information. The goal is to streamline the process and reduce the time it takes to approve requests.

“Employees and their administrative preparers will be able to easily see the status of all requests, every step of the way,” said Sharon Jackson, director of accounts payable and travel for Business Services.

With the exception of the Athletic Association, all employees will be able to create, view and maintain authorizations and reports through the new system, which can be accessed through the Administrative Systems Toolbox in TechWorks.

“One of our main problems has been that travelers often had a significant delay in reimbursement, because departmental approvers weren’t on campus and able to sign the paper travel expense statement,” Jackson said. “But this system allows for approvals from anywhere there is an Internet connection.”

Authorized supervisors and financial approvers will be able to click on a “Worklist for Approvers” button to view and approve any requests that have been assigned to them.

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New Director of Community Relations Arrives

AMELIA PAVLIK
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

On April 11, Christopher Burke joined the Office of Government and Community Relations as the new director of community relations.

“Chris brings a network of professional contacts in local government and relationships with key leaders to Georgia Tech that will serve the Institute well as we seek to strengthen our involvement in and support of our surrounding communities,” said Dene Sheehane, executive director of government and community relations.

As director, Burke will maintain and cultivate relationships with community and government groups including the Atlanta City Council and the Mayor’s Office. He will coordinate community outreach activities with local neighborhood associations and will advise Tech students on community service and leadership opportunities related to community initiatives.

“I’m very excited about the chance to serve the communities surrounding Georgia Tech and work on initiatives that improve the quality of life for people in these areas — and all residents in metro Atlanta,” he said.

Burke comes to Tech from the Greater Atlanta Home Builders Association, where he has been employed since 1999 and has served as vice president of government affairs since 2003. In this role, Burke worked with neighborhood, government and business leaders on housing initiatives that are important to the Atlanta area.

“Those experiences taught me consensus-building skills that are relevant to progress and the many commonalities we as residents of metro Atlanta share,” he added. “Ensuring that Georgia Tech’s reputation of excellence resonates with members of the Atlanta community is a priority. My goal is to ensure that every community we touch will enjoy a stronger future.”

Burke earned a bachelor of arts in sociology and a master of public administration from Clark Atlanta University.

www.gov.gatech.edu/community

Success Programs Seeks GT 1000 Instructors

If you’ve ever been interested in teaching a section of GT 1000 Freshman Seminar, now is your chance.

Success Programs is accepting applications from faculty and staff volunteers to teach fall 2011 sections. The one-credit seminar helps new freshmen adjust to college life, learn about their major and related careers, and introduces them to campus resources. Sections are small — typically, no more than 25 students — and are assisted by upper-class team leaders.

Employees from any department on campus are welcome to apply, provided they hold a master’s degree, have been employed at Tech for one year as of August, and have their supervisor’s, director’s or department head’s support. Training is provided for all instructors.

For more information about GT 1000, email Steven Girardot, director of Success Programs, at steven.girardot@vpss.gatech.edu.

www.gt1000.gatech.edu

Director of Women in Engineering Named

Christine Valle has been appointed the new director of the Women in Engineering program in the College of Engineering Dean’s Office.

Valle, an academic professional in the G. W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering, received her master’s and doctoral degrees from Georgia Tech in mechanical engineering. She has taught at Tech since 2004 both in civil and environmental engineering and mechanical engineering and has also been on the faculty of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and the University of Maine.

The Women in Engineering program is dedicated to recruiting top female students into engineering majors and, once enrolled, to ensuring the highest level of retention by fostering an environment that encourages curiosity, creativity and intellectual and personal growth.

www.coe.gatech.edu/wie

Dean of Engineering Search Update

Be sure to mark your calendar for the final College of Engineering dean candidate visit.

Dennis N. Assanis, director of the Michigan Memorial Phoenix Energy Institute at the University of Michigan, will deliver a public presentation at 11 a.m. on April 26 in room 236 of the Global Learning and Conference Center.

Aside from Assanis, the candidates being considered for the position are Gary May, chair of the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering; Bill J. Wrpier, chair of the School of Mechanical Engineering; and Mark A. Barteau, senior vice provost for research and strategic initiatives, University of Delaware.

Access the presentation videos, the candidate’s CVs and leave feedback at www.provost.gatech.edu/engineering

www.provost.gatech.edu/engineering
Don’t Miss the April 22 Farmers Market

AMELIA PAVLIK
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

If you like food, it just doesn’t get any better than the creamy local yogurts, ripe produce and fresh-baked breads — among other edible gems — that you can find at a farmers market.

Of course, getting yourself to one of these markets can be a challenge, since the times they are held and their locations aren’t always convenient. So, to make your life a bit easier, Dining Services has brought the farmers market to you.

“In previous years, the markets were held once a semester on campus,” said Nell Fry, sustainability coordinator for Dining Services. “This past fall, Dr. Peterson passed on a letter he had received from a faculty member requesting more frequent markets. So, we delivered.”

The final market of the semester will be held in conjunction with the Institute’s Earth Day celebration on April 22. The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the IC Lawn. (Typically, the markets have been held on the last Friday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Student Center Commons.)

To select vendors, Fry works with the Dining Services vendor, Destiny Organics, and has looked to other farmers markets, such as the one held at Emory, for ideas. The mix changes from month to month, as some choose to return, while others don’t.

“H&F Bread and Dreaming Cow yogurt have been two of the most popular participants among the faculty, staff and students attending,” Fry said. “Both have fresh, high-quality and unique products.”

In addition to H&F Bread, Fairywood Thicket Farm, Antico Mercante, Farmer’s Organic and Hundred Acre Farm will also be participating on April 22. Although some vendors accept credit cards, it’s best to bring cash, Fry advised.

The goal is to continue to hold markets throughout the summer by organizing the events around student orientation dates.

“But we want to see what kind of response we get from customers before committing to a lot of markets during a slow time on campus,” she added.

If you have any questions, contact Fry at nell.fry@sodexo.com. For more information, visit the event’s Facebook page at http://tinyurl.com/3n76gfc

H&F Bread is one of the vendors that will be attending the April 22 campus farmers market. At previous markets, the company has had baked goods ranging from scones to olive bread available.

IEN, continued from page 1

• Materials Research Science and Engineering Center (epitaxial graphene)
• Microelectronics Research Center
• Microsystems Packaging Research Center
• University Center of Excellence for Photovoltaics Research and Education

REIMBURSEMENT, continued from page 1

Classroom training sessions on the new system are scheduled through June, and online tutorials are available for specific topics, such as “How to Create a New Authorization for Domestic Travel” and “How to Create a Travel Expense Report.” For more information on either training option, visit www.transweb.gatech.edu.

If you have questions or feedback regarding the new system, send them to travel.ask@business.gatech.edu.

SAVANNAH, continued from page 1

Tech Savannah as a reconfigured organization providing the types of educational and experiential learning opportunities that serve local educational, government and industry needs.

Any course of action will require a gradual transition that will take time to complete. Whether providing every current and admitted student in the program the attention necessary to obtain a Georgia Tech degree, or supporting the dedicated professionals working on either training option, visit www.transweb.gatech.edu.

If you have any questions, contact Dr. Bras and members of the task force for the careful and thorough work they are doing as they help us determine the best course forward for Georgia Tech and the communities we serve.
It all started with a doodle — that is, a doodle of Pinocchio stubbing a vampire.

“I actually wanted to be a comic book illustrator before I went into journalism,” said Van Jensen, an assistant editor of the Georgia Tech Alumni Magazine. “While I was working at a newspaper, I met Dusty Higgins, an illustrator, and one day he doodled Pinocchio stubbing a vampire. Later, he asked if I wanted to write a graphic novel based on the idea.”

Jensen jumped at the chance. The first “Pinocchio, Vampire Slayer” came out in 2009. The plot is based on the Carlo Collodi fairy tale, but Jensen’s spin mixes horror with humor. A sequel was released last year, and the final book in the trilogy is slated to come out in 2012.

“It’s been kind of crazy how fast it’s happened,” he said. “Dusty and I were actually special guests at Comic-Con [an annual convening for lovers of all things comics] last year, and now we are special guests at the New York Comic Con this weekend.”

Guests at Comic-Con, which was amazing.”

For those comic book readers who are looking for something that is a bit more fact than fiction, Jensen also writes and illustrates a series of autobiographical comics called “Nebraska” — true stories about growing up in a town of 300 in western Nebraska.

Recently, The Whistle sat down with Jensen to learn more about him and his work at Tech. Here’s what we learned:

**How do you get to Georgia Tech?**

I realized that I wanted to be a writer in high school and studied journalism in college. I was editor-in-chief of my college paper and then got a job as a crime reporter at a paper in Little Rock, Ark. My wife was accepted to Emory University’s law school, which brought us to Atlanta. Once we arrived, I decided to take a break from newspapers, and that’s how I ended up here.

**What does your job entail?**

I get to interview faculty, staff, students and alumni who are doing amazing things. I also take photos and do web programming, page design, writing and editing.

**What do you enjoy most about your job and least? What do you do to make your least-favorite part bearable?**

I love learning about people’s lives and the work they do. On the other hand, sometimes I’ll receive a letter that’s pretty critical regarding something I’ve written. It’s always tough to hear someone was upset by something I wrote. But, I try to learn from any criticism and use it to improve going forward.

**What piece of technology could you not live without?**

Even though I write about technology all of the time, I’m no techie. I have an ancient cell phone, take most of my notes by hand, don’t play video games and don’t even have cable at home. I did just get a new Wacom tablet, which is a digital drawing surface. I’m getting back into drawing, so I’m excited about that.

**What are three things everyone should do when working at Tech?**

Go bowling at the Student Center, walk to Sublime Doughnuts and attend a softball game — oh, and send a story idea to the Alumni Magazine.

**Best place to grab lunch, and what do you order?**

The curry at Spoon — but only if you like spicy food.

**Any ideas in the works for future comic books?**

It hasn’t been published yet, but I also wrote a graphic novel that features the disembodied-yet-sentient leg of Mexican President Santa Anna as the protagonist.

**www.pinocchiovampireslayer.com**

**OIT Finalizes Updates to Institute’s Computer Network Policy**

**COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING**

The Office of Information Technology has formalized the results from a review of Institute’s Computer Network Usage and Security Policy (CNUSP), the document that provides the guiding principles for use of information technology resources at Georgia Tech.

Faculty, staff and students are expected to behave in an ethical and professional manner when using IT resources, just as the Institute is bound by law to protect access to its data and resources. The revised policy offers additional clarification for respecting copyrights, and addresses for the first time the protection of research data and export control.

OIT has created a website for users to review the updated policy, a summary of policy changes, and frequently asked questions for employees and students. Questions regarding the policy or its application can also be sent to itpolicy@gatech.edu.

**www.oit.gatech.edu/references**

**Ramblin’ Through Time**

**Remembering Tech’s Beloved Dean of Students**

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: Dean Griffin.

The following excerpt is number 6 on the list “125 Pieces of Tech History,” featured in the September/October 2011 issue of Georgia Tech Alumni Magazine:

**One of Dean of Students George Griffin’s hats hangs on display in the Alumni House. Griffin was hailed as “Mister Georgia Tech.”**

In 1946, Griffin, “with his obvious love of people, unfailing sense of humor and talent for dealing with students and faculty, was an overwhelming choice for dean of students,” said a tribute written for the unveiling of a portrait of him in the Alumni House. After retiring in 1984, Griffin was named dean of students emeritus, and he opened a job placement service on campus for alumni over age 40. Nearly until his death in 1990 at 92, Griffin reported daily to an office he maintained in the Alumni House.