New Institute to Connect People, Technology

To support the strategic plan’s focus on faculty-led, interdisciplinary and transformative research, Executive Vice President for Research Steve Cross has announced the launch of the Institute for People and Technology (IPaT).

Similar to the Petit Institute for Bioengineering and Bioscience, IPaT will catalyze research activities, create new economic development opportunities and address important societal problems. It will support various college research centers that collectively pursue transformations in healthcare, education, consumer media and other complex human enterprises by integrating advances in human-centered computing, architectural and digital design, policy and system science and engineering.

“IPaT will create an innovation crossroads where faculty, students, industry partners, government partners and other stakeholders meet to co-innovate, collaborate and pave the road for Georgia Tech research that addresses complex societal challenges,” Cross said. “IPaT will focus on engaging the Tech community and our external partners in far-reaching leadership goals through its investment in unique research platforms, through our living laboratories and datasets, through partnerships with Tech’s Enterprise Innovation Institute and through alignment with the many ongoing research activities on campus.”

IPaT will be led by Executive Director Beth Mynatt, College of Computing professor and former director of the GVU Center. Mynatt is a renowned researcher in human-computer interaction, health informatics and ubiquitous computing. She is a Sloan and Kavli research fellow and serves on Microsoft Research’s Technical Advisory Board. Prior to joining the faculty in 1998, she was a member of the research staff at Xerox PARC, working with the founder of ubiquitous computing, Mark Weiser. Mynatt earned both her master's and Ph.D. in computer science from Tech.

“I’m thrilled that Beth has agreed to lead the Institute for People and Technology,” Cross said. “Her vast understanding of the complexities inherent in today’s social and business institutions and the transformative role of technology in those enterprises is a critical foundation for this new institute. Moreover, her track record in bringing together diverse stakeholders to accomplish difficult interdisciplinary and translational research and to provide solutions for today’s challenges is a prized asset for leading an institute that will connect so many parts of the Georgia Tech community.”

The IPaT leadership team includes Deputy Director Jeff Evans, deputy director of Georgia Tech Research Institute’s (GTRI) Information and Communications Laboratory. In addition to being a Tech alumnus, Evans has been a research engineer for GTRI for more than 20 years, directing more than 70 successful external sponsored research programs in networked systems, performance applications and emerging wireless services. He has collaborated extensively across campus in leading and supporting research efforts in the Georgia Centers for Advanced Communications Technology (GCATT) and several interdisciplinary centers, establishing network-based platforms and test beds to support a wide range of research efforts. Evans will continue the development of technology convergence test beds.

BuzzMart Launches on Feb. 21

If your daily duties include purchasing items for your unit, life is about to get a little easier.

The new eProcurement system, BuzzMart, will go live on Feb. 21, replacing Tech’s PeopleSoft campus requisition. “The shift to BuzzMart, which has been in the planning stage for more than a year, is consistent with goal five in the Institute’s strategic plan,” said Rosalind Meyers, vice president of campus services. “BuzzMart will streamline the procurement and payment process, eliminate paperwork and allow Business Services to focus on value-added, strategic activities rather than transactional activities.”

The new system will offer the following benefits:

• 24/7 Internet-based access
• One-stop shopping experience
• Real-time processing
• Student and affiliate access
• Electronic approval and workflow
• No end-of-the-month reconciliation or invoices to organize

“From the user point of view, it’s all about customer service,” Meyers said. “BuzzMart will get an order placed faster, delivered faster, eliminate the excess paperwork that the PCard requires and it can be accessed from any computer.”

When the system is launched, many of the top Tech vendors, including Staples and Hewlett Packard, will be featured in BuzzMart as catalog suppliers. The prices in the catalogs reflect Tech’s negotiated rates, and additional vendor catalogs will be introduced over time. Purchasers will now be designated one of four roles.
Institute

6 Faculty Members Named AAAS Fellows

Georgia Tech’s dean of the College of Engineering and five other faculty members have been awarded the distinction of Fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

AAAS is the world’s largest general scientific society, and the election as a Fellow is an honor bestowed upon AAAS members by their peers.

The new Fellows at Georgia Tech consist of the following:

- Gilda A. Barabino, associate chair for graduate studies and professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering, was honored “for distinguished contributions to tissue engineering research and education, as well as for enhancing the participation of underrepresented groups in scientific fields.”
- Stephen P. DeWeerth, professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering, earned the distinction “for contributions in the field of neuroengineering, particularly for the real-time modeling of sensorimotor systems and for the development of neural interfacing technology.”
- Don P. Giddens, dean of the College of Engineering and professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering, was honored “for significant contributions to our understanding of the role of hemodynamics in cardiovascular pathobiology and for leadership of engineering education nationally.”
- Joseph W. Perry, professor of physical, polymer and materials chemistry and optical science in the School of Chemistry and Biochemistry, was honored “for distinguished contribution to the understanding, development and application of organic materials for third-order nonlinear optics.”
- Valerie Thomas, an associate professor of natural systems with a joint appointment in the School of Industrial and Systems Engineering and the School of Public Policy, was honored “for sustained commitment to combining science policy with innovative interdisciplinary research in industrial ecology.”
- Zhuomin Zhang, professor in the School of Mechanical Engineering, was awarded the Fellow distinction “for advancing thermal radiation research and its applications in temperature measurement, promoting education in nano- and micro-scale heat transfer and serving professional societies.”

Nominations Sought for Environmental Awards

The Georgia Tech Earth Day committee seeks nominations for two awards that recognize individuals or organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to making a positive impact on how people think about and use the planet’s raw materials.

Members of the campus community are invited to submit nominations for:

- the Environmental Leadership Award (ELA), celebrating an individual or group that has had a significant environmental impact via a long-term commitment, resulting in a body of exemplary work; and/or
- the Environmental Initiative Award (ElA), in honor of a particular project by an individual or group that has had a significant environmental impact within the past year, whether on campus or in the community at large.

Nominations will be accepted through March 6, and winners will be recognized during the campus Earth Day celebration on Friday, April 22. To see a list of past winners or obtain a nomination form, visit the Earth Day website.

Faculty Survey Seeks Input on Research Support

In an effort to fulfill the commitment in Georgia Tech’s strategic plan to “sustain and enhance excellence in scholarship and research,” the Office of the Executive Vice President for Research has initiated a faculty survey designed to gather data for planning and implementing faculty research support.

“We are committed to fostering a supportive work environment for faculty research and specifically your research success,” said Executive Vice President for Research Steve Cross. “To that end, I have commissioned a study about the support needed for high-quality research across the Institute. The goal of the study is to increase research efficiency by finding ways to support quality of research while at the same time easing the burden of administrative work on the faculty.”

Between now and Friday, Feb. 11, faculty are asked to complete the anonymous 15-minute survey.

Results of the survey will be shared with faculty at a town hall meeting later this spring. Faculty with questions about the survey should contact either Chet Warzynski, executive director of the Office of Organizational Development, at 894-1009, or Jonathan Gordon, director of the Office of Assessment, at 385-1419.

The survey can be accessed at the following website:

http://tinyurl.com/4g66zz4

Library Purchases Nature Journals: New Titles and Backfiles

The Library is happy to announce that it has been able to purchase the Nature Journals, which are now available electronically from your computer.

The journals have been heavily requested by the Tech community. Faculty, staff and students can access them from the Library’s homepage via the GT Catalog (http://portal.library.gatech.edu), Find Articles/Databases (http://gisearch.library.gatech.edu/search), or ejournals (http://sfx.galib.uga.edu/sfx.gii1/aj).


The full list of Nature Publishing Group titles is also now available for Tech users.

http://portal.library.gatech.edu
New DoPP Executive Director Assumes Role

As of Jan. 24, Georgia Tech’s Division of Professional Practice (DoPP) has a new executive director.

In his new role, Patrick R. Antony, who most recently served as assistant director of Career Services and Cooperative Education at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, will develop and execute a strategic plan for the department that advances experiential learning at Tech through partnerships with faculty, academic administrators, industry and other constituents.

“Georgia Tech’s DoPP is not only home to one of the nation’s oldest and most successful co-op programs, it is also very active in providing students with various internship opportunities. We need to continue building on this strong foundation and are looking to Patrick to help us do so,” said Ray Vito, vice provost for graduate and undergraduate studies.

Aside from his work at UMass Lowell, Antony spent more than 27 years at the Boeing Company, serving in various positions, including engineering/project manager, manager of engineering resources, deputy site leader and corporate human resources executive as director of enterprise university relations. He also served as director of human resources talent acquisition/development and global university relations and recruiting with the Terex Corporation of Westport, Conn.

“Companies flock to Tech because they know the students are taught by great faculty and are prepared to enter into the workforce and immediately begin to contribute to the organization,” he said. “The DoPP staff are recognized leaders in their field, and the experiential learning programs are often looked to as the gold standard other institutions aspire to. I feel honored and privileged to be part of this team of dedicated professionals that works with faculty members and helps to shape the leaders of tomorrow.”

Antony earned a bachelor’s degree in aerospace engineering from California Polytechnic University, an MBA from Pepperdine University and an MS/Ph.D. in organizational psychology from Alliant International University. He also holds an Executive Leadership Certificate from the University of Notre Dame.

www.propractice.gatech.edu

for IPaT, and his leadership will promote a broad set of research opportunities for a diverse group of government and industry interactions with Tech.

Ron Hutchins (OIT), Bill Rouse (ISyE/COC) and Renu Kulkarni (GTRI/Enterprise Innovation Institute [EI2]) will also play important roles. IPaT will be supported by EI2’s Strategic Partners Office.

While in start-up mode, IPaT can be reached at ipat@gatech.edu.

Currently, the system is being piloted by Housing and the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

“BuzzMart gets you the goods and services in a more efficient, effective manner. The ability to generate custom reports far exceeds the previous system,” said Bob Canada, the leader for the Housing and the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Employees must go through training to access BuzzMart. Training will be based on the BuzzMart homepage.

“Shoppers” can access BuzzMart and add items to a shopping cart. “Requesters” are responsible for reviewing cart contents and entering accounting information. Requesters are allowed to self-approve orders that are less than $3,000. All others must be approved by the “spend authority approver” and/or a “financial approver.”

reduction for each campus unit, we anticipated this and have planned accordingly. As a result, you will probably see little or no impact. To date, we have managed budget reductions without substantially impacting the quality of what we do for our students and for the people of Georgia. However, every additional reduction makes this task increasingly difficult. We continue to keep our focus on our primary goal: to ensure that the quality of our academic and research programs remains nationally competitive, even if it means taking undesirable actions such as reducing course offerings, limiting our state business outreach or capping enrollment growth.

The Fiscal Year 2012 budget holds significant challenges for everyone. The governor has recommended no new formula funding or capping enrollment growth.

In addition, the governor has recommended no new formula funding and the sun-setting of the elimination of new formula funding and the sun-setting of GTR/I Enterprise University Relations and recruiting with the Terex Corporation of Westport, Conn.

In spite of this, I continue to be deeply moved by the spirit, dedication and passion exhibited by the students of the Georgia Tech community. It is a privilege to be able to tell the stories of the people who have helped to shape our success.

Thank you for your continued support, your hard work and dedication, and most of all your concern for our students and the well-being of this great institution.

www.profpractice.gatech.edu
Recruiting Takes Director to Unusual Spots

As director of graduate programs for the College of Management, Ann Scott has taken recruiting trips for the MBA program to destinations ranging from England to Japan. But her most memorable trip was to a place called Ekaterinburg, Russia.

“For 15 years, I’ve been involved with the Edmund Muskie Fellowship program that brings students from the former Soviet Union to study in the United States,” she said. “In Ekaterinburg, we visited a sign that marks the border between Europe and Asia — and I managed to have one foot in each continent. It was a memorable moment.”

Recently, The Whistle sat down with Scott to learn more about her experiences while working at Tech. Here’s what she said:

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

Get a vegetable plate at Junior’s. Run around the indoor track at the Campus Recreation Center. Look at the older buildings on campus to see the architectural details.

Did you always know that you wanted to be in your current line of work?

When I earned my MBA, working with an MBA program and in higher education were not things that I imagined as a career path. I wanted a job in finance. However, it was having banking experience that actually led to a former boss hiring me to run an MBA program at another university.

Two MBA programs later, I came to Tech in 1986, when the MBA degree was called “Master of Science in Management.” Since then, I have expanded my original responsibilities of admissions and recruiting to include student services, the Ph.D. program in management and alumni relations for the college.

What does your job entail?

I have an open door policy with students and like to be easily accessible. All day, students and faculty are in my office, on the phone or sending e-mails, asking for help with problems. I also manage the administrative functions of the graduate office in the college and work with departments all over campus on curriculum and programming issues.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

What do you enjoy least about it, and how do you make the least-favorite aspect bearable?

I enjoy working with students and seeing them grow as they go through the programs. I’m also very curious, so learning about their lives and what interests them is a lot of fun. My least favorite aspect is graduation; I hate to see students leave. But, I get to know the next new class and make friends with them, and keep in touch with our alumni.

What professional technology could you not live without?

I have to have my laptop, but I dream about the days when I didn’t have e-mail. I didn’t realize how slow and easy life was.

What is the best place to grab lunch (on or off campus), and what do you order?

St. Charles Deli, because they have the best chicken salad sandwich in the world.

What nonprofessional accomplishments are you most proud of?

Having friendships that have lasted for more than 40 years, reading more than 125 books per year — and having a drink with Leonard Nimoy. I’m a Star Trek fan whose favorite lamp is a replica of the Enterprise.

Where is your favorite place to go in the city on the weekend and why?

My sofa — I am a lazy person at heart.

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