IEEE Promotes 6 Faculty Members to Fellow Status

LIZ KLING
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Six Georgia Tech faculty members have been elevated to Fellow status by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the world’s leading professional association for the advancement of technology.

The IEEE grade of Fellow is conferred by the board of directors upon a person with an extraordinary record of accomplishments in any IEEE field of interest. The promotions went into effect on Jan 1.

The following faculty members were honored:

- Mark G. Allen, Regents’ Professor and Joseph M. Pettit Professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, received his IEEE Fellow citation “for contributions to micro and nanofabrication technologies for micro-electromechanical systems.”
- Mary Jean Harrold, professor in the School of Computer Science in the College of Computing, earned her IEEE Fellow status “for contributions to software systems.”
- Jay Lee, an adjunct professor in the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, was elevated to IEEE Fellow status “for contributions to model-based predictive control technology, it is on the critical path to all foreseeable change,” said DeMillo, who is currently a distinguished professor in the colleges of Computing and Management. “The goal is to use the output of this living laboratory to drive innovative, diverse — perhaps competing — visions of higher education in the 21st century.”

While serving as dean, DeMillo oversaw the overhaul of the College of Computing’s undergraduate computer science curriculum, moving to a contextual, specialized approach called “Threads,” which has been hailed as a groundbreaking development in higher education.

The center, “C21U,” will not only explore technological opportunities for innovation, but also examine some of academia’s long-held assumptions about knowledge and skill delivery. Reimagining those models, DeMillo said, could mean the difference between institutional success and failure in an educational environment that yields annual market share to nontraditional and international competitors.

“We’ve got to figure out how to scale a Georgia Tech education to a much larger population of students, while retaining every bit of the intellectual rigor that makes that experience what it is,” said Steve Cross, executive vice president for research. “The last decade has shown us that different models of education delivery can not only work but also succeed. Given our nature and history as a technological university that responds extremely well to the shifting demands of industry, it’s appropriate that Georgia Tech help lead the way toward a thriving system of higher education in the 21st century.”

DeMillo added that the center hopes to develop a spirit of experimentation among its faculty affiliates, challenging them to innovate in curricular design, while working with national and international groups also engaged with higher education reform.

The first item on the center’s agenda is developing a seed grant program that will identify and provide funds for promising early proposals.

“Rich DeMillo is the perfect choice to lead this center because he has a passion for education and he understands that in today’s environment — both in technology and in education — you have to innovate or you will get left far behind,” said Zvi Galil, John P. Imlay Jr. Chair and dean of the College of Computing.

www.cc.gatech.edu

School of Architecture Appoints Johnston as Chair

TERI NAGEL
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE

Professor George B. Johnston, a registered architect and noted cultural historian, has been appointed chair of the School of Architecture. A 26-year member of the architecture faculty, he is the first to hold this newly created position after the College of Architecture reorganized into five schools.

As chair, Johnston will provide leadership and direction for all academic and administrative affairs in the school. In addition to expanding relationships with other disciplines in the College of Architecture and across campus, he also has been tasked with reforming undergraduate and graduate education to best prepare graduates for dramatic changes in architectural practice.

“Dr. Johnston is without doubt the most capable person to
Institute

21 Tons: Recycling Program Sets New Record

The Game Day Recycling program broke its own record this football season, diverting 21 tons of glass, aluminum, cardboard, plastic and other recyclables away from landfills for a chance at a second life.

“I think the visibility of Game Day Recycling really took off this year,” said Cindy Jackson, who has directed the program since 2008. “We provided each of our volunteers with bright green T-shirts and continued to refine the process for how we collect recyclable materials. We also initiated some food waste composting within the stadium.”

The total represents a 9 percent increase from the previous year. Overall, the program recycled 19 percent of the waste generated during the fall’s six home games.

“The Athletic Department in particular has been very supportive, combing the stadium blanchers for recyclables before cleaning crews come in,” Jackson said. “Together with some of our other initiatives, we reduced the amount of trash produced within the stadium by 44 percent this season.

“A program like this wouldn’t be possible without the assistance of staff from many departments across campus or the enthusiasm of our dedicated game day volunteers,” she added. “It is a privilege to work with so many who see the value of Game Day Recycling and are willing to devote their time and energy to make it happen.”

www.recycle.gatech.edu

Charitable Campaign Total Surpasses Last Year’s

The final numbers for this year’s charitable campaign are in — and they’re impressive.

This year, 1,225 members of the Tech community donated $312,910.90, which surpasses last year’s numbers, said Tom Horton, charitable campaign chair and chief of staff at the Georgia Tech Research Institute.

“Despite the tough economic times we’re in right now, Georgia Tech faculty and staff were incredibly generous during this year’s charitable campaign — the amount raised is an all-time high for us,” Horton said. “That’s a great tribute to our campaign coordinators and their hard work. My thanks to all who gave and all who worked so hard to make the campaign so successful.”

Horton added that it’s the recipients of the donations to the campaign that benefit in the end.

“And that’s what it’s all about,” he said.

The United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta, the Atlanta Community Food Bank and the American Cancer Society were the top three recipients of donations from the campaign.

“Giving back to the community through both our resources and service is a long-standing tradition at Georgia Tech,” said President G. P. “Bud” Peterson. “We are very grateful to the faculty, staff, retirees and students, as well as the Georgia Tech Foundation, who all participated. Thank you for your generosity and your commitment.”

www.charitable.gatech.edu
Faculty Women's Club Celebrates 90th Year

It's one of Georgia Tech's most valuable resources for female faculty members and spouses and partners of faculty members yet it's perhaps one of the better kept secrets.

"It's very difficult for us to reach our potential membership," said Lynne Wepfer, president of the Tech Faculty Women's Club. "Part of this can be attributed to the fact that we're not affiliated with any specific department, and we don't have an office on campus."

The group was founded in 1921 to foster a sense of community among the wives of faculty members. But as women's roles have evolved, so has the group.

In the early 1990s, membership was opened to female faculty members, and now the group encompasses women from all ages and walks of life, Wepfer said.

She was drawn to the club in the 1980s, when her husband, Bill Wepfer, accepted a job at Tech.

"I didn't know anyone, and this club kind of scooped me up," Wepfer said. "I found out that I was pregnant with my first child shortly after we arrived, and I needed that kind of support." Members of the Faculty Women's Club enjoy a meal during their visit to the Serenbe community.

Members also may join a variety of interest groups that include two thriving book clubs, lunch and dinner clubs and a group that focuses on making wise investments.

Annual dues are $35. If you have any questions regarding membership, contact Jan Gaylord at gaylord.jan@gmail.com.

Scholarships Available to Children of Tech Employees

Since the early 1990s, the Tech Faculty Women's Club has provided scholarships for the children of Tech employees who are studying at the Institute. The club is now accepting applications for five $1,000 scholarships.

Over the years, her participation in the club has ebbed and flowed, but that is what she thinks makes the organization so valuable to anyone — whether she's a faculty member or a spouse or partner.

"It's there when you're ready for it," she said. "Our activities let you come in and contribute without an obligation."

Each year begins for the club in September with an open house hosted by First Lady Valarie H. Peterson.

Events are then held monthly and include everything from visits to Rhodes Hall to the Serenbe community.

If you are looking for a way to contribute to the community, the group participates in service activities, such as a morning of work at the Atlanta Community Food Bank that is scheduled for Feb. 22. Activities for the year always come to a close with a luncheon.

Wepfer said the club makes a significant difference — "a physical difference in the way that the children of faculty members realize potential." And it's important that they believe in themselves.

Wepfer, who accepted a job at Tech, said the women's club offers "a place where you can belong" and "a place to belong.

"I wasn't sure about coming to Tech, but I'm glad I did," Wepfer said. "It's very rewarding.

If you have any questions regarding membership, contact Jan Gaylord at gaylord.jan@gmail.com.

www.gtfwc.gatech.edu

New VP for Institute Diversity Welcomed at Reception

A reception was held on Jan. 19 to formally introduce Archie Ervin, Tech's first vice president for institute diversity, to the campus community.

Ervin comes to Tech from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he served as the associate provost for diversity and multicultural affairs from 2005 to 2010.

Ervin's appointment was preceded by a rise in student enrollment in the university’s College of Computing.

Archibald "Archie" Ervin holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Tuskegee Institute and a Master of Science in educational, psychological and social services from Indiana University. He received his Ph.D. in educational administration from the University of North Carolina.

Ervin comes to Tech from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he served as the associate provost for diversity and multicultural affairs from 2005 to 2010.

For a more comprehensive listing of events updated daily, visit www.gatech.edu/calendar.

Real Estate/Roommates

Classifieds continue on page 4

Events
Tech Grad Found His Niche in Public Policy

Rather than become a bookbinder, piano-tuner or point guard — all back up careers that Richard Barke considered — he chose to go into public policy, a realization that occurred while he was attending Tech as an undergraduate student majoring in physics.

“I wanted to know who paid for our research, how they chose my professor and what they would do with our results,” said Barke, an associate professor in the School of Public Policy. “I realized that much of what happens in science is related to politics and policy.”

Now, after 30 years of teaching, if he had to explain his field of study to a fifth grader, it might go a little something like this: “Science and technology are totally awesome — or whatever it is that fifth graders say today,” he said. “They affect the world in many ways and most of them are good. But the world affects science and technology, too.”

What happens when scientists disagree? ‘What happens when scientists disagree?’

“I was a consultant for the Carnegie Commission on Science, Technology, and Government, where I was most involved with issues regarding how the U.S. Congress allocates money for scientific research fields and how it solicits and uses advice from scientists and engineers. Some of this work was continued with agencies in Belgium and China.

What are three things that you do to make learning more engaging for students?

“I occasionally intercept lyrics from rock songs, I challenge students to disagree with the assigned readings and (in large classes) I have them design policies from scratch.”

What is the greatest challenge you face associated with teaching, and how have you dealt with it?

“Some Tech students arrive with a very cynical attitude about policy, government and politics. It’s not hard to understand why. My challenge is to show them that the system actually works rather well most of the time.”

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

“I nearly fell off Stone Mountain when I was 14. Seriously.”

Richard Barke

Campus Meetings Offer Weight Loss Support

After two months of endless sweets and goodies, you’re seriously considering joining Weight Watchers. But given your schedule, how would you find time for the meetings?

As a Tech employee, you’ve got a convenient option. Meetings are offered during lunch hours on Wednesdays at the Campus Recreation Center (CRC).

“‘It’s easy and fun,’” said Dave Wagner, web developer at Georgia Tech Savannah. “‘Best of all, it works.’”

Meetings begin at 11:45 a.m. with a weigh in. At noon, the program begins and the group discusses topics such as how to control emotional eating, finding a likeable exercise program and managing holidays. At 12:30 p.m., a Getting Started Session is offered for new members.

Although spring semester meetings began on Jan. 19 (and will run through May 18), it’s never too late to join. New participants pay a pro-rated amount if they begin after the start date. The program cost is $200.

To learn more, e-mail Melissa Moore, the campus Weight Watchers leader, at melissa.moore@gatech.edu, or Christie Stewart, the Weight Watchers campus contact at the CRC; at christicestewart@crc.gatech.edu.

Employees Must Disclose State Business Activities

The deadline for faculty and staff to submit State Business Transaction Disclosure Reports for 2010 is Jan. 31. State law requires that all public officials and employees disclose all business transactions occurring during the previous calendar year in which the individual has (1) transacted with the state of Georgia and any agency of the state of Georgia for himself or on behalf of any business, or (2) any business in which the individual, or any member of his/her family, has a substantial interest.

Questions regarding this requirement may be directed to the Office of Legal Affairs at asklegal@gatech.edu or 404-894-4812. The disclosure reporting form and instructions are available at the following website:

http://tinyurl.com/49wkc4v

RAMBLIN’ THROUGH TIME

Alumni Building Once Home to YMCA

In honor of Tech’s 125th birthday year, we’re partnering with the Georgia Tech Alumni Magazine to highlight a piece of Tech history. This issue’s topic: the history of the Alumni Association building.

The following excerpt is number 12 on the list “125 Pieces of RAMBLIN’ THROUGH TIME.”

The YMCA hosted many a play, musical performance, movie and often held casual dances (pictured above) on Friday evenings. The Y staff put a standing sign outside on the sidewalk in front of the building to let the students know there would be a dance, according to Marilyn Somers, director of Tech’s Living History Program.

The building at 190 North Ave., now home to the Alumni Association, was constructed to house the YMCA. In 1910, John D. Rockefeller Jr. gave $50,000 to build the facility.

That was the largest gift Georgia School of Technology had received. Another $25,000 was raised for construction, and the YMCA opened on June 7, 1912.

Functioning much like a student center, the building housed the Blueprint and Technique staffs, a post office, barbershop, lunchroom and auditorium.

On the third floor were rooms rented to students.

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