First Woman Chair Named in Engineering

BARBARA CHRISTOPHER
SCHOOL OF INDUSTRIAL & SYSTEMS ENGINEERING

Following a national search, Jane Chumley Ammons has been named the chair of the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISyE) effective July 1.

Ammons is the first woman to be named a school chair in the College of Engineering. She is also the first woman to receive a PhD from ISyE, in 1982, and the first woman faculty member in the school.

"Dr. Ammons brings with her a superb track record as a researcher, advisor and recognized leader in the field of industrial engineering. She brings with her a vision to lead the School of Industrial and Systems Engineering to higher levels of excellence within a multidisciplinary and high-technology environment," said Don P. Giddens, dean of the College of Engineering. "Dr. Ammons is a well-rounded educator and administrator, and we look forward to the development of new curriculum, service and research endeavors."

Ammons currently holds the rank of professor and also has served as associate dean for faculty affairs in the College of Engineering since 2004.

She is the author or co-author of more than 100 refereed and technical publications in the area of manufacturing systems and supply chain engineering with a special interest in developing closed-loop, environmentally sustainable systems.

Ammons has served in several school, college and Institute capacities, including as the National Science Foundation (NSF) ADVANCE professor of engineering from 2002 to 2005.

In addition to her research and institutional service activities, Ammons has been active in professional service beyond Georgia Tech.

Ammons is a past president of the Institute of Industrial Engineers and has chaired the NSF Engineering Advisory Committee.

She is a member of the Technical Committee for the Uganda: Millennium Science Initiative Project, co-financed by the World Bank, and serves as a program evaluator for ABET Inc., the engineering education accreditation organization.

At Georgia Tech, Ammons has been honored with eight teaching/faculty awards at the school and university levels.

In addition to her academic experience, Ammons has worked as a plant engineer for an industrial manufacturer and is a registered professional engineer in the state of Georgia.

www.isye.gatech.edu

North Avenue Dining Hall Hosts Sneak Peeks

AMELIA FAYULK
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Get ready to enjoy everything from wings to specialty pastas — without ever leaving campus.

The North Avenue Dining Hall will host “soft” openings during lunch on June 20, 22 and 23, and on July 11 through 15, in preparation for its August 31 grand opening.

“Because this is the first dining hall to open on campus in 83 years, we want to share this historic moment with our campus community,” said Todd Schram, general manager of Georgia Tech Dining Services. “This dining hall will be a great place for students to enjoy and grow as a community.”

The North Avenue Dining Hall will feature a variety of stations including a create-your-own stir-fry area.

The HOST, continued on page 2

GTRI Leads $10 Million Open Source Initiative

JOHN TOON
RESEARCH NEWS & PUBLICATIONS

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Technology Directorate has named the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) to lead implementation efforts for the five-year, $10 million Homeland Open Security Technology (HOST) program.

The HOST program will investigate open source and open cyber security models, methods and technologies, and identify viable and sustainable approaches that support national cyber security objectives.

“The strategic objective of the HOST program is to lead efforts of discovery and collaboration, seeding development in open source software and practices that produce a measurable impact,” said Joshua Davis of GTRI, who will serve as principal investigator for the Homeland Open Security Technology program.

The five-year, $10 million project is funded by the Homeland Security Project Office (HSPO) and the Technology Directorate within the Office of the Under Secretary for Management (USM). The new project is a successor to the five-year, $3 million HOST program that GTRI led from 2007 through 2011.
**Institute**

**Georgia Tech Revises Its Visual Identity**

**COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING**

If you are responsible for designing anything that features the Georgia Tech logo, a few changes are coming your way. As part of a larger brand initiative, a revised visual identity system is being introduced this summer.

“Our brand is one of our most important assets and is what distinguishes us from other institutions,” said Michael Warden, vice president of Communications and Marketing. “Although the Georgia Tech brand is comprised of numerous elements including values, positioning and key messaging, visual identity is perhaps one of the most important components, which is why we’ve made revising the visual identity guidelines a priority.”

Over the past few years, Communications and Marketing has spearheaded an effort, which has included representatives from across campus to refine these guidelines, as it has formally defined the Institute’s brand.

“Through surveys, focus groups and many discussions, Communications and Marketing assessed what aspects of the current visual identity system were working and what could be improved,” said Katie Taylor, director of marketing communications. “For example, some slight modifications to the current Institute logo have been made, most notably the campanile icon has been shortened and the lines bolded a bit to increase legibility.”

Some of the goals of the revised guidelines are to allow more flexibility within the current system and increase consistency in how the Georgia Tech brand is visually showcased, Taylor added.

Educational sessions will be offered June 30 and July 14, 21 and 28 for those who work with the visual identity system, and revised visual identity guidelines will be available in July on the Communications and Marketing website. In the fall, a comprehensive brand resource manual will also be available online.

If you have any questions about the revised visual identity and how it may affect your unit’s communications, contact Taylor at katherine.taylor@comm.gatech.edu.

www.gatech.edu/comm

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**HOST**, continued from page 1

for government cyber security systems,” said Joshua Davis, associate division head at GTRI’s Cyber Technology and Information Security Laboratory and principal investigator for the HOST program. “The collaborative nature of open source and open technologies provides unique technical and economic value and opportunities for government users.”

Open technologies are not a panacea for all challenges, Davis added. HOST will reach out to government, industry, academic and open source community representatives to learn where and how open technologies have been successfully adopted within public and private systems and where the challenges still remain.

“As we go, we are sharing this information across government agencies and helping to build networks of users, service and support providers and policy influencers, and providing a venue to enable them to discuss, share and learn from collective experiences,” Davis said. “The collective is what gives open source its strength. We are simply applying this successful strategy to address government cyber security challenges.”

GTRI is leading HOST efforts in conjunction with the Open Technology Research Consortium, a collaborative network of leading academic research institutions, industry partners and open source community organizations that work to promote the advancement of open source software adoption within government agencies.

Additional information about HOST will be made available through the HOST website (www.cyber at dhs.gov/host). Also, a publicly accessible informational portal will be launched this summer.

www.gtri.gatech.edu

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**DINING**, continued from page 1

faculty and staff to gather for lunch meetings and enjoy daily changing menu options that won’t be available elsewhere on campus.”

Starting in the fall semester, the all-you-care-to-eat menu items will feature vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options. Diners will find deli, grill, Italian, wok, Pho (pronounced “fuh,” pho is a type of Vietnamese noodle dish), salad bar and international cuisine selections daily, and the menus at each food station will be on a four-week rotation.

In addition to serving more local and organic food, the building aspires to be Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certified. LEED is an internationally recognized green building certification system.

Some of the hall’s environmentally friendly points of pride include using repurposed materials in the building and minimizing waste and use of other resources.

Another reason to stop in and visit the new dining hall is that Dining Services will be offering two-for-one meal coupons during June and July, Schram added.

Also, employees who participate in the FacultyStaff 200 Meal Plan will always get an additional 10 percent off on meals at this location and the other two campus dining halls.

Faculty and staff can purchase the faculty/staff meal plan for $200 and receive $236 of GT Dining Cash in return. The meal plan is valid for one semester and can be used at any GT Dining location.

The North Avenue facility will be cash-free and will only accept BuzzFunds, debit cards, major credit cards and meal plans.

www.gatechdining.com

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**ARTS & CULTURE**

**June 15**

Flicks on 5th, Tech’s own film series, shows movies at sundown on Wednesday evenings throughout the summer, rain or shine. Movies are shown on Fifth Street between Williams and Spring Streets. The series kicks off with “Hall Pass.” The next film, which will be shown on June 22, will be “The Adjustment Bureau.”

**Through Summer Semester**

The Robert C. Williams Paper Museum is pleased to present a student-researched and designed exhibition that focuses on the explorations of papermaker Dard Hunter. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

www.ipxt.gatech.edu/amp

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**June 14**

Environmental Health and Safety will offer a defensive driving class from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Piedmont Room, Student Center Commons. Register at www.ergdev.gatech.edu/training

**June 28**

The library will offer training on Dreamweaver CS5 basics from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in the Homer Rice Center. In this workshop, students will learn about the software interface and discuss basic features, including a brief overview of HTML/CSS basics and their role in this latest version.

www.library.gatech.edu

**June 29**

The library will offer training on Photoshop basics from 4 to 6:30 p.m. in the Homer Rice Center. In this workshop, students will experiment with various Photoshop tools and cover things such as liquidity, blending images using layer mask, examples of portrait retouching and adjusting image brightness/contrast.

www.library.gatech.edu

**July 12**

The library will offer training on InDesign CS5 basics from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in the Homer Rice Center. In this workshop, students will create a basic business card or brochure as they learn about the software.

www.library.gatech.edu

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Events continue on page 3

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

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Georgia Tech Communications & Marketing

Warlord Center

177 North Avenue

Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0181

www.whistle.gatech.edu

THE WHISTLE • June 13, 2011 • PAGE 2
Taking Email Etiquette to the Next Level

LIZ KLIPP
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

When working with others in the office, most know it is better to approach a colleague who is relaxed and drinking a cup of coffee versus a frazzled co-worker buried under a pile of paperwork.

Unfortunately, email doesn’t offer users the same social cues — until now.

Assistant Professor of Computing Eric Gilbert has developed software called courteous.ly, a service that shows current user email loads in real-time.

“I think we’re really good at the etiquette part when we have the cues that allow us to be polite,” said Gilbert, a faculty member in the School of Interactive Computing. “Courteous.ly helps manage expectations and lets people choose to send mail when it’s best for you.”

Available for download, courteous.ly currently works with Google-based email, such as Gmail, which is used by 160 million people worldwide. Roughly 3 million businesses also use Google-hosted mail. Signing up for courteous.ly is as easy as entering your email address and verifying a few links.

Once courteous.ly has access to a Gmail account, it periodically checks the user’s email load based on specific measurement parameters chosen by the user — unread messages and total number of messages in your inbox, or how much mail you’ve recently sent.

After an initial 12-hour analysis, courteous.ly determines the user’s email habits and what constitutes “light,” “normal” or “high” email amount. It then updates the user’s status of email volume level every 10 minutes, which is reflected in an individualized courteous.ly link.

The primary way to distribute a courteous.ly link is through the user’s email signature. To see how busy a user is, an individual look can be taken at the user’s email load based on specific measurement parameters.

For employees or individuals with high daily levels of incoming email, this tool provides another level of email management.

For marketers and others trying to get the attention of a particular user, courteous.ly links can be used to target the best possible time for a message.

In the future, Gilbert said he may develop blog widgets that allow users to put their courteous.ly links on their blogs or websites. He may also color-code Gmail messages based on how overwhelmed a user’s inbox is for easier awareness.

Gilbert started courteous.ly to infuse email with more social consideration.

“Email is the Internet’s first and most prolific social medium, going back all the way to the 1960s, and it’s often overlooked and under-analyzed in comparison to newer channels,” Gilbert said. “That makes it an attractive place to do research because everybody uses it but not a lot of innovation has happened in a long time. There’s definitely room for improvement.”

http://courteous.ly

CRC Clinics Teach Exercise Techniques

AMELIA PAVLIK
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Not everyone knows the correct form for a squat or how to “circuit” train, which is why the Campus Recreation Center (CRC) is hosting a series of summer exercise clinics.

The 30-minute free clinics are open to members of the CRC and are taught by CRC personal trainers.

“These clinics are a great way to learn new exercises and how to do them correctly,” said Faith Doldo, fitness coordinator of the G.I.T. FIT programs. “And it’s a great way to pick the brain of a personal trainer.”

The following clinics will be held in June and July:

• June 13: Core Training (5:30 p.m.)
• June 13: Squat Technique (6 p.m.)
• June 22: Beginning Circuit Training (6 p.m.)
• June 27: Chest Press Technique (6 p.m.)
• July 13: BOSU Stability Ball Training (6 p.m.)

Previous CRC exercise clinics have included a training session on yoga.

Each clinic will include a demonstration of proper technique by the trainer and time for participants to practice exercises and ask questions.

Clinic topics are usually selected by the trainers, based on their areas of expertise. But if people have topic suggestions for the clinics that will be held weekly in the fall, Doldo encourages them to email her at faith.doldo@crc.gatech.edu.

www.crc.gatech.edu

Tell Us About Your Strategic Planning Initiatives

It’s been almost a year since the strategic plan was launched, and we here at The Whistle want to know what you are doing to implement the plan in your unit.

Whether you are a faculty or staff member, we want to hear the specific initiatives that you and your unit are involved in. Email us at editor@comm.gatech.edu.
Professor Aims to Dispel Astrophysics Myths

AMELIA PAVLIK
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Deirdre Shoemaker has become accustomed to people not believing in black holes — even one of her stepson's teachers.

"When he was in elementary school, my stepson came home with an English writing assignment on myths," said the astrophysicist who is an associate professor in the School of Physics and works within the Center for Relativistic Astrophysics. "His topic choices included Big Foot, the Loch Ness monster and black holes."

Another common misconception that Shoemaker has encountered is that black holes are giant, cosmic vacuum cleaners that suck everything in. "Fortunately, they're not," she said. "If we replaced our sun with a black hole of the same mass, Earth wouldn't be sucked into it. However, the lack of sunlight would be a problem."

Shoemaker has worked in her field for about 15 years, since she was a graduate student at the University of Texas at Austin. As an astrophysicist, she considers herself to be "a detective of the universe."

"We are using clues and evidence to determine what the universe is and how and why it looks like it does to us today," she added. Recently, the Whistle sat down with Shoemaker to learn more about her and her time at Tech. Here's what we learned.

How did you get to Tech?

I was an assistant professor at The Pennsylvania State University for four years before being asked to apply to Georgia Tech. I was hired as part of an effort to initiate a research and teaching group dedicated to astrophysics, which evolved into the Center for Relativistic Astrophysics.

Tell us about your research.

I use computational techniques to solve the equations that govern how two black holes interact with each other. The byproduct of that interaction is called "gravitational radiation." Gravitational radiation is a kind of radiation predicted by Einstein's theory of gravity, but it has not been directly observed (we are using to electromagnetic waves like light and microwaves).

What is your greatest challenge associated with teaching and how do you deal with it?

When I teach large introductory classes, the challenge is to maintain a persona that is respected and approachable. My personality, which is quite friendly, is a plus and a minus for this. It think it helps me be an approachable instructor and encourages students to ask questions in class, but I also have to maintain a balance in and out of the classroom. I think the balance comes from demanding that the students respect each other and me. Little things help accomplish this such as not allowing talking in the room when one person is speaking.

What are three things that are key to making learning more engaging for students?

Humor, patience and research. I think a sense of humor is essential in teaching, second only to having the patience to let students ask questions in their own time and words. These two things help create a classroom atmosphere where a student can feel comfortable. I also try to bring up relevant, current research as often as possible so students can get a feeling for why we find physics so interesting and why it is important to society.

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

The Internet, because it allows me to research how teach material similar to my own.

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

Run the annual Pi Mile 5K, slide down that crazy water slide at the Campus Recreation Center and attend a commencement ceremony.

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

I order to order soup at La Petite Café.

Tell me something unusual about yourself.

My family and I have two Great Danes — they pretty much run the household, but they are gentle giants.

THE STORY OF GEORGIA TECH

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: M.L. Brittain's "The Story of Georgia Tech."


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