Cozzens, Potts Named New Vice Provosts

KRISTEN SHAW
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Susan Cozzens has been appointed vice provost for graduate education and faculty affairs, and Colin Potts has been named vice provost for undergraduate education.

Both positions originated from the Office of the Provost's leadership reorganization in December. Among Cozzens' new duties will be overseeing and coordinating faculty hiring and career progression, postdoctoral initiatives and career planning, and student admission processes and policies — all with the goal of attracting and retaining the best faculty, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.

“The position involves advocacy for three groups I have been committed to for a long time: faculty, graduate students and post-doctoral scholars,” Cozzens said. “The special opportunity at this time is to create a new vision for graduate education, which is the projected growth area for the Institute.”

Cozzens comes from the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts, where she is associate dean for research and faculty development, a professor in the School of Public Policy and director of the Technology Policy Assessment Center. She previously served as chair of the School of Public Policy, in various roles at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and as director of the National Science Foundation’s (NSF) Office of Policy Support.

Cozzens will exit her role as associate dean and reduce her teaching workload but will maintain advisement of doctoral students and current research involvement, including an NSF-supported endeavor focused on women in U.S. science policy.

“Susan has been a strong advocate for faculty and graduate students throughout her career, and understands the issues, policies and opportunities related to our students, faculty and postdoctoral researchers,” said Rafael Bras, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. “This experience will be invaluable in developing a focused approach that enables us to make the appropriate investments in these groups.”

Ray Vito, vice provost for graduate and undergraduate studies, has served as interim in the graduate education and faculty affairs role since December. Cozzens will officially take over June 1.

Potts will oversee the offices and programs affecting undergraduate education, including the Division of Professional Practice, Honors Program, Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, Office of

Faculty Hear
Open Access
Policy Progress Report

AMELIA PAYLER
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

A draft open access policy regarding peer-reviewed, scholarly research published by faculty at Tech is ready for input from faculty, according to a progress report given during the April 24 meeting of the General Faculty and Academic Senate.

In her presentation, Ellen Zegura, co-chair of the subcommittee on open access and a professor in the School of Computer Science, explained that many of Georgia Tech’s peer institutions, including Duke and Princeton, already have such policies in place.

"An open access policy would allow faculty members to retain some copyrights to their research publications and have the option to place them in the SMARTech (http://smartech.gatech.edu) repository — which is accessible to anyone in the world," Zegura said. “Faculty members could opt out if they weren’t interested in participating. But those who did would benefit, since some journals only allow for open access if the faculty member’s institution has an official policy.”

Zegura and the other subcommittee members are eager to get feedback from the campus community and will hold a series of town halls (further information about the town halls and open access will be in a future issue of The Whistle). For more information about the policy, contact Zegura at ezw@ece.gatech.edu or co-chair Steve McLaughlin at swm@ece.gatech.edu.

In other meeting news:

• Changes to the Institute's Conflict of Interest and Outside Professional Activity Policy were approved to comply

President's Update Celebrates Institute's Wide-Reaching Impact

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

This spring, 23 G. Wayne Clough Tech Promise scholars will walk across the stage at commencement to receive their diplomas.

“The Tech Promise Program ensures that every qualified Georgia resident has access to a Georgia Tech education, regardless of family income,” said President G. P. “Bud” Peterson. “The education these 23 graduates possess will have a real and lasting impact not only on their lives but also for generations to come. There is a parallel here to Georgia Tech as an institute — the impact is broad, far-reaching and lasting.”

This year’s Spring President’s Update not only highlights the Institute’s impact on a state, national and global level, but it also showcases many of the year’s successes in areas including research, manufacturing, innovation, diversity, and student and campus community achievements.

FACULTY, continued on page 3

Www.whistle.gatech.edu

NEWS BRIEFS

Tech Recognized for Return on Investment

Bloomberg/BusinessWeek has ranked Georgia Tech number two in the nation, and first in the state of Georgia, in annualized return on investment based on the financial return graduates earn from their degree. Read the full story at tinyurl.com/7ao48e3

Summer Camps Are a Click Away

Georgia Tech is making it easier for faculty and staff members to find the right summer camp for their children. Employees have access to a database of on- and off-campus summer camps. Find out more at tinyurl.com/3w9qrm3

President's Update, continued on page 3

ASK AWAY

Do you need to receive any training to drive one of the golf carts on campus?

According to the Board of Regents Motor Vehicle Use Policy, employees who routinely drive University System of Georgia/institution-owned vehicles — including golf carts — are required to complete training prior to operating them, said Aleece Foxe, general safety manager in Environmental Health and Safety. At Georgia Tech, that training is the Defensive Driving Course. To register for the free course, go to trains.gatech.edu.

Have a Tech-related question that you’d like answered? Email it to editor@comm.gatech.edu.

Cozzens will exit her role as associate dean and reduce her teaching workload but will maintain advisement of doctoral students and current research involvement, including an NSF-supported endeavor focused on women in U.S. science policy.

“Susan has been a strong advocate for faculty and graduate students throughout her career, and understands the issues, policies and opportunities related to our students, faculty and postdoctoral researchers,” said Rafael Bras, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. “This experience will be invaluable in developing a focused approach that enables us to make the appropriate investments in these groups.”
New Chairs Named for International Affairs, ECE

Joseph R. Bankoff has been appointed chair of the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs, and Steven McLaughlin has been selected to lead the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE).

Bankoff, president and CEO of the Woodruff Arts Center in Atlanta, has also been named Professor of the Practice in Ivan Allen College (IAC) of Liberal Arts.

“We are especially privileged to have Mr. Bankoff assume leadership of the School of International Affairs at a time when we are shaping a new strategic plan for its future,” said Jacqueline J. Royster, dean of IAC.

Bankoff has experience in a variety of areas including law and policy, economic development, government legislation, fiscal planning and global issues. He has been involved with the Nunn School’s Sam Nunn Bank of America Policy Forum since its inception.

He earned a bachelor of science in industrial management from Purdue University and a JD from the University of Illinois. Bankoff will retire from Woodruff at the end of May and will begin at Georgia Tech in September.

“I am flattered and excited to have the opportunity to work with the distinguished faculty and impressive students at the School of International Affairs,” Bankoff said. “I believe that the Nunn School and the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts have the potential to greatly strengthen the capacity of Georgia Tech to provide and produce culturally aware and technically competent leadership in both global technology and policy.”

Effective Sept. 1, McLaughlin will assume his new role in ECE. McLaughlin is currently the vice provost for International Initiatives and Steven A. Denning Chair in Global Engagement and Ken Byers Professor in ECE.

“Steve’s background, experiences and outstanding reputation in fields critical to the school make him ideally suited and well-prepared to lead ECE during the next era,” said Gary S. May, dean of the College of Engineering.

His research group has published in the general areas of communications and information theory, particularly in the areas of error control coding, and constrained codes for magnetic and optical recording; forward error correction and equalization for wireless and optical networks; and quantum key distribution, wireless and RFID security.

McLaughlin earned his PhD in electrical and computer engineering from the University of Michigan.

“It’s a huge honor to be selected as the next chair of ECE,” McLaughlin said. “The opportunity to work with so many exceptional faculty, students, staff and alumni to make our school even more prominent is thrilling. In ECE, I firmly believe we are at the right place at the right time in terms of education, research and economic development impact in Georgia, the nation and around the globe.”

www.iac.gatech.edu / www.ece.gatech.edu

Tech to Conduct Institute Climate Assessment

Rather than be reactive when it comes to improving the climate and culture at Georgia Tech, the Office of the Vice President for Institute Diversity is spearheading an Institute climate assessment to learn about the climate and culture at Tech.

In the months to come, the office will conduct an Institute climate assessment to learn about the experiences and perceptions of students, faculty and staff members when it comes to how inclusive and supportive the climate at Tech feels.

“The assessment is one of the ways that we’re addressing the goals of the strategic plan that are related to building a campus community that pursues excellence and embraces and leverages diversity in all of its forms at Tech,” said Archie Ervin, Tech’s vice president for Institute Diversity.

With input from the Strategic Plan Implementation Task Force on Institute Climate Assessment, the Office of Assessment will create a set of climate assessment surveys for all members of the campus community.

The goal is to administer the surveys in the fall. Ervin added: “One area the surveys may explore, for example, is how students, faculty and staff interact with and learn from peers whose backgrounds and experiences, such as gender and race, are different and/or similar from theirs.” Ervin said: “The information we gather will give us some baseline knowledge about the Tech community and climate that can be used to help develop a strategic action plan, which will guide our efforts over the next several years.”

For more information, contact Ervin at averin@gatech.edu.

www.diversity.gatech.edu

VICE PROVOSTS, continued from page 1

Undergraduate Studies, Athletics Academic Support and the Center for Academic Success.

“When I teach large, interdisciplinary classes, which I enjoy, I can have some effect on undergraduate education across campus,” Potts said. “It’s now going to be possible for me to help not just 130 to 200 [students] in a classroom, but 15,000 across campus. That’s exciting.”

As an associate professor in the School of Interactive Computing, Potts has been involved with various initiatives outside of his regular teaching. He has traveled with study abroad programs in Barcelona and Oxford, led a ThinkBig living learning community, and participated in the development of the X-Degree and TechArts, projects that emerged from the Institute’s 25-year strategic plan. Earlier this month, he received the 2012 Eichholz Faculty Teaching Award in recognition of his contribution to introductory undergraduate education at Tech.

“Colin’s enthusiasm for undergraduate education and programming is evident in his demonstrated commitment to enhancing student learning and the student experience, both of which are foremost priorities in our strategic plan,” Bras said.

Anderson Smith, senior vice provost for academic affairs, has served as interim in the undergraduate education role since December. Potts will assume his new role Aug. 1.

www.provost.gatech.edu
How Twitter Broke the News: #WeGotBinLaden

Nearly a year after U.S. Special Forces killed Osama bin Laden, the events of May 1, 2011, remain one of the busiest traffic periods in Twitter history. More than 5,000 tweets were sent per second when Twitter became the first source with news of bin Laden’s death. But how did the news break and quickly spread across the Twittersphere?

A team of Georgia Tech researchers, together with colleagues at Microsoft Research Asia and University of California-Davis, looked at more than 600,000 tweets for answers. By analyzing tweets sent during a two-hour time frame beginning just minutes before the first rumor, they found that opinion leaders and celebrities played key roles. Their data also shows that the Twittersphere was overwhelmingly convinced the news of bin Laden’s death was true, even before it was confirmed on television.

The study confirms the widely held belief that Keith Urbahn (@keithurbahn), an aide to former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, was indeed the first person to break the news on Twitter.

His tweet was sent at 10:24 p.m. Eight minutes later, a CBS producer (@jacksonnj) tweeted her own confirmation. When a reporter with The New York Times (@brianstelter) retweeted both reports, the news began to spread more widely.

“Rumors spreading on Twitter is one thing,” said Mengdie Hu, a PhD candidate in the School of Interactive Computing who led the study. “Determining if they are true is another, especially in this era of social media and the rush to break news.”

To make a determination, Hu and her team used machine-learning methods to examine more than 400,000 English tweets in the sample. If the message mentioned the death as a fact or in very confident terms, it was classified as “certain.”

If any hesitation or rumors were mentioned, the tweet was sorted as “uncertain.” Within minutes of Urbahn’s post, 50 percent of tweets were certain. By the time network brokers into 21 minutes later, nearly 80 percent were already sure that bin Laden was dead. The number peaked to just over 80 percent after TV made it official.

“We believe Twitter was so quick to trust the rumors because of who sent the first few tweets,” Hu said. “They came from reputable sources. It’s unlikely that a CBS news producer or New York Times reporter would spread rumors of something so important and risk jeopardizing their reputation. Twitter saw their credentials and quickly believed the news was true.”

Also, although nearly everyone on Twitter was talking about the news, a group of 100 ‘elite users” was actually driving the discussion. Nearly 20 percent of all tweets mentioned one of these elite users.

Unsurprisingly, media outlets such as CNN, CNN Espanol and the New York Times were led the way, especially in the minutes before and after the TV announcement. But within a half hour of the TV reports, celebrities surpassed media mentions and carried the discussion throughout the night. They included comedian Steve Martin and reality star Kim Kardashian.

Hu and John Stasko, Hu’s advisor and professor in the School of Interactive Computing, are using the analysis to develop software that can measure moods and influential people on social media. Marketing companies could use the tools while unveling new products or searching for celebrity endorsers.

www.ic.gatech.edu

Open Records Act Changes Take Effect

Each year, Georgia Tech receives hundreds of Open Records Act (ORA) requests. That’s why it’s important for employees to familiarize themselves with the ORA changes that Gov. Nathan Deal recently approved.

Changes to the law are effective immediately and include the following:

• The charge per page for paper copies has been reduced from $0.25 to $0.10 per page.

• The act expressly allows Tech to charge for time spent removing confidential information from otherwise public records.

• If the estimated cost to produce the requested records exceeds $25, Tech may request an agreement to pay before searching for responsive records. If the estimated cost exceeds $500, the Institute may require payment before beginning to search for responsive records.

• Tech is expressly permitted to withhold documents protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

• Tests, scoring keys and related materials are exempt from production under the act, so long as the test will be given in the future.

• If some, but not all, of the records requested are available within three business days after a request, the portion that can be produced within three days must be produced in that time.

• When it will take Tech more than three business days to retrieve the requested records, the Institute may identify any applicable exemptions within three days after retrieving the records.

• The enforcement provisions of the act are not applicable if a request is made orally — only when the request is written.

Employees who have questions or receive record requests should contact the Office of Legal Affairs at asklegal@gatech.edu.
As a little girl, LaJauna Ellis wanted to be a nurse. Of course, life had other plans for Ellis and took her into education rather than medicine, but one thing has remained the same — Ellis is the happiest when she is helping others.

“When was previously little more than a concept to me became real when I read the book ‘The Purpose Driven Life,’ ” Ellis said. “The first line of the book reads, ‘It’s not about you.’ When I read that line, something clicked. I knew that those are the gifts and skills that I have are not given to me for selfish reasons. They are about helping others — sharing what I have and who I am.”

When Ellis isn’t at work, or doing on her eight grandchildren, she devotes much of her free time to volunteering for a women’s prison ministry and coaching a middle school girls’ basketball team.

About five years ago, Ellis began her work with Kairos of Georgia prison ministry after learning about it from fellow church members who were already involved. The program consists of a team of about 50 women who spend several weeks preparing to enter a prison where they instruct 42 members who were already involved.

The Kairos weekend is held twice a year, particularly the most common types of ministry, and the Kairos weekend is held twice a year, and the Kairos weekend is held twice a year, par

How did you arrive at Georgia Tech?

In 1995, I decided to make the move from California, where I’d worked in the Department of Electrical Engineering Research Administration at Stanford University, to Georgia to be closer to family. I had three daughters and no job offers. It was probably the biggest risk I’ve ever taken. Once I got to Atlanta, I interviewed to be assistant to the chair of the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE). I didn’t get that position, but was instead offered a job that was similar to what I did at Stanford, working with research administration. I gladly accepted the job and stayed there for two years, until I was offered the assistant to the chair position I originally interviewed for. I stayed in this position until recently when Gary May was promoted from chair of ECE to dean.

What has the transition from being a chair’s assistant to a dean’s assistant been like?

I went from dealing with one school to eight schools, so I’m doing what I did before, but on a much larger scale. I’d have to say that the majority of my day is now spent managing Dean May’s meetings and travel schedules. But I do enjoy the fact that I get to do more event planning now than I did before.

What is one piece of technology you couldn’t live without?

My HTC smartphone. I always said that I didn’t want to become a person who was tied to her phone, but then thinking about emails and stuff. But now that’s me.

Where is your favorite spot on campus?

The fourth floor break room in Tech Tower. I’ll go there for lunch, because it’s such a nice, quiet spot.

What is the best advice you’ve ever received?

Don’t burn bridges that you’ve crossed over, because you might need to use them again — either to return to where you’ve been or to help someone else cross.

If you could have dinner with anyone, dead or alive, who would it be?

It would be my mother-in-law, because she passed away soon after my husband and I started dating. I would really like to have the opportunity to get to know her.

Where is your favorite place to go for lunch, and what do you order?

Marlow’s Tavern, and I love to get the fish tacos.

Tell us something about yourself that others might not know.

I like to write everything from poetry to songs and plays in my free time.

LaJauna Ellis Has a Passion for Volunteer Work

AMELIA PAVLIK COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

During the past three months, it’s likely that you haven’t noticed one group of people on campus.

And that’s just how the Georgia Tech Police Department would like it, as its new plain-clothes officer unit is not one that’s meant to be seen. But for the past three months — seven days a week — teams of five have operated in plain clothes to track and head off crime at the pass, particularly the most common types of incidents on campus.

“We’ve made several arrests and made contact with people who have been wanted outside Georgia Tech that were committing crimes here,” said Sergeant Ian Mayberry.

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LaJauna Ellis (third from left) with her daughters LaDeirda, Andrea and LaKia.

http://police.gatech.edu

New Plain-Clothes Police Unit Patrols Campus

KRISTEN SHAW COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

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“We’ve made several arrests and made contact with people who have been wanted outside Georgia Tech that were committing crimes here,” said Sergeant Ian Mayberry, who oversees the plain-clothes unit.

One arrest in the Clough Commons was a criminal who had several warrants out for his arrest in Fulton County and who was suspected in other thefts on campus from camera footage. A second arrest in the Clough Commons was a criminal who had several warrants out for his arrest in Fulton County and who was suspected in other thefts on campus from camera footage. A second arrest in the Clough Commons was a criminal who had several warrants out for his arrest in Fulton County and who was suspected in other thefts on campus from camera footage.

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