WHISTLE NEWS

Campus Community Discusses MOOCs

AMELIA PAVLIK
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

When Georgia Tech announced its partnership with Coursera six months ago, “MOOC” was a new acronym to many. But a lot has changed since then.

“We are getting calls about what we’re doing and how we’re doing it,” said Rafael L. Bras, provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs, during last Thursday’s town hall on online learning.

“We’ve made a significant impact in a short period of time,” he added.

Through Coursera, an online learning platform that has partnered with Tech and other premier institutions to offer free courses for the general public, Georgia Tech has created eight massive open online courses (MOOCs), which currently have a combined enrollment of 162,133 students. Additionally, the Gates Foundation recently awarded funding to develop three general education courses. Some 10 to 15 other courses are also under development.

The town hall, members of the audience had an opportunity to share their comments and questions regarding MOOCs.

Mark Braunnstein, a professor of practice in the School of Interactive Computing, shared that “Coursera was the ideal partner for developing MOOC courses because its infrastructure is already in place.

Faculty Approve Open Access Policy

AMELIA PAVLIK
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

During the Nov. 27 meeting of the General Faculty and Academic Senate, Georgia Tech faculty adopted an open access policy that will make articles about research conducted at the Institute free and accessible.

“I am delighted that the careful work of our Library and the Faculty Committee on Open Access has resulted in an implementable policy that reflects Georgia Tech’s values and culture,” said Ellen Zegura, co-chair of the subcommittee on open access and a professor in the School of Computer Science. “The policy will provide faculty authors with an opportunity to increase the distribution and impact of their work by making it more widely available.”

As of Jan. 1, the policy will allow faculty members to retain copyrights to their research publications and have the option to place articles in the SMARTech repository, the Institute’s online repository for everything from dissertations to annual reports.

Faculty members can opt out if they aren’t interested in participating.

“The publishing industry is changing rapidly — especially as digital technologies and networks become more pervasive and powerful,” Zegura said. “We are now well-positioned to lead discussions, throughout Georgia and beyond, on the practice and technologies reflected in this new policy.”

For more information about the policy and uploading information to SMARTech, go to tinyurl.com/aj7c6kj.

MLK’s Eldest Son to Give Annual Lecture

INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

On Jan. 16, members of the Georgia Tech and Atlanta communities are invited to hear Martin Luther King III deliver the Institute’s second annual Dr. Martin Luther King (MLK) Jr. Lecture.

King, the oldest son of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King, is a leading advocate for strategic nonviolent action to rid the world of social, political and economic injustice.

“Diversity is one of Georgia Tech’s greatest assets and priorities, and we’re delighted to have Dr. King’s son speak at this event that has become the centerpiece of our MLK celebration,” said Archie Erwin, vice president for Institute Diversity. “It is our hope that events like this one will spark discussion and renew enthusiasm for building the kind of society Dr. King hoped to create.”

The lecture will be held at 3 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom. King’s talk will focus on the theme of the celebration, “The Dream and the Journey Continue.” Those interested in attending should RSVP at tinyurl.com/cqk7xx.

NEWS BRIEFS

Civil Engineering Student Ears Marshall Scholarship

Tech graduate student Jacob Tcegeagbe has been chosen to receive a Marshall Scholarship. Learn more at tinyurl.com/bbk3kmv

Nominate Staff for 2013 Awards

The deadline to submit a nomination for the 2013 Staff Awards is Jan. 18. Find out how at tinyurl.com/PwR2Zhj

FACULTY, continued on page 2
**OIT Shares Computer Security Tips for Break**

**OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

Winter break is the time of year when faculty and staff enjoy a week away from campus — leaving thousands of desktop computers unattended.

Before you leave for the break, there are a few things you can do to keep your computer and computer files and the networks we operate on secure. Here are some tips from the Office of Information Technology:

- **Register your work computers with the Georgia Tech Police Department at http://police.gatech.edu/services/security.** Also, activate location services on your laptops when possible. Mac laptops, for example, can be tracked using iCloud.com when location services are enabled.
- **Turn off your work computer during the break,** unless told to do otherwise by your unit’s IT staff. If you can’t turn off your computer, log out of all accounts. If your machine must remain on and you can’t log out before leaving, enable a screensaver with password protection or lock your computer when you leave. Windows users can select a password-protected screensaver from Start > Control Panel > Display > Screensaver. Windows users can lock their computers by pressing the Windows Key + L. Mac users should simply log out or set up a password-protected screensaver and activate it.
- **Lock your workspace when you leave.**
- **Check with your unit’s IT staff to ensure that your computer receives security updates and has the necessary antivirus security software installed.** Users should also make sure they have the Tech-provided antivirus software suite (McAfee) installed on personal computers. If not, download it for free at http://software.oit.gatech.edu.
- **Use Tech’s virtual private network (VPN).** To use any of Georgia Tech’s remote desktop or file-sharing programs from your home computer, you’ll have to connect to the Institute’s VPN first. For information on installing it, visit tinyurl.com/83qc6kb (You can access Tech’s web-based services, such as My GaTech, TechWorks and T-Square without connecting to the VPN.)
- **Change your password before it expires,** so you do not experience any service interruption. If you forget your password, you can reset it yourself by having security hints defined in Passport. To set up questions or reset your password, go to http://passport.gatech.edu.
- **Take all personal and work laptops and mobile devices home over the break.** Also, ensure that the password function and device location service has been activated on all of these items.

**www.oit.gatech.edu**

---

**TOWN HALL, continued from page 1**

Universities (C21U) will evaluate each idea and determine the appropriate level of support to provide.

“As we learn, the development of this type of course will be easier,” Bras added. “Furthermore, when MOOCs yield revenues from use outside of GT, the professor, has or her unit and the Institute will benefit. In addition, Georgia Tech’s promotion and tenure processes value educational innovation and experimentation with impact.”

The audience was also curious about how Georgia Tech could use MOOCs to positively impact the on-campus community. Bras explained that his office has provided a small grant to the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning (CETL) to facilitate five teams, or “mini innovation hubs,” that will examine questions such as this one.

Over the course of one to two years, each hub, to be comprised of faculty and students, will research a question related to MOOCs, which might include, for example, how to take a course designed for a small class and modify it for a MOOC.

During a November event, more than 80 participants brainstormed ideas that could be the basis of one of the questions or challenges that the hubs will examine. The event was organized by Donna Llewellyn at CETL, Michael McCracken of C21U and Wendy Newsletter of the College of Engineering.

“It is really exciting to see the enthusiasm for exploring these types of issues related to learning and teaching,” Llewellyn said. By the close of the November event, a set of 10 potential research ideas had been established, each with a “champion” charged with carrying it forward. For more information, contact D.Llewellyn at doma.llewellyn@gatech.edu.


---

**FACULTY, continued from page 1**

understand. For example, the first 27 sections have been reorganized into five, and bulleted lists have been added to improve clarity. Town hall meetings will be held in January to get input on the document, and it will be voted on at the Feb. 19 and April 23 General Faculty and Academic Senate meetings. Visit tinyurl.com/3quv7js to view a copy of the draft and provide feedback.

• **Revisions to update and improve the clarity of the Student Alcohol Policy were approved.** Revisions include changing the document title to “Student/Student Organizations Alcohol Policy.” A designee can now make exceptions to the policy in addition to the President’s Office, and a space will now be designated for those drinking at campus events where alcohol served (in place of using a wristband method to monitor who can and can’t drink).

• **The week preceding final examinations week will once again be called “Dead Week” to alleviate confusion.** Wording was also added to Dead Week policies to clarify that they apply to the week preceding final examinations during standard terms, including the long summer session.

• Changes were approved to the Office of Student Integrity’s policy regarding releasing student records to third parties. Now, students’ disciplinary files will be retained for only five years after graduation or from the last date of attendance unless there is a suspension or expulsion, and the file will be voided if the student is found not responsible for the charges. The alterations were made to ensure that students who have committed minor offenses aren’t penalized for an unreasonable period as they apply to graduate school or for employment.

• An addition to the Prohibited Academic Conduct section of the Code of Conduct was approved. It prohibits the unauthorized use of an instructor’s intellectual property — including marketing and selling it. This change was made to prevent students from making a profit by selling their notes and professors’ handouts and presentations to for-profit note-taking companies.

To view the meeting agenda and supporting documents from the November meeting, visit tinyurl.com/bgvhxpp
More Students Registering with Disability Services

KRISTEN BAILEY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

As Georgia Tech’s student population grows, so does the number of students who look to the Office of Disability Services for assistance.

When Denise Johnson-Marshall, assistant dean and director of Disability Services, arrived at Tech 10 years ago, 184 students were registered with the office, or about 1 percent. This year, it’s 565, nearly 3 percent. “You can guess about 10 percent of any population has some sort of disability, so we are low on that scale, but high for us,” she said.

The office serves students with needs both mental and physical, temporary and permanent. Most students served have some form of ADD or ADHD, but Johnson-Marshall has also seen more chronic health-related illnesses such as autoimmune diseases, as well as psychological disorders and Asperger’s. The increased use of Disability Services likely has numerous causes. The office has boosted its outreach to new students by holding open houses at FASET orientation, and faculty members are more frequently referring students. Johnson-Marshall has also seen enhanced communication with high school counselors trying to improve the process of transitioning students who were aware of their disabilities in high school.

“Most students have an inkling that something is going on before they get to college, though some needs do emerge or manifest once they’re here,” she said. Disability Services works with the Counseling Center to screen and assess students when they apply for services if they have not been previously diagnosed.

Even with the increase, Johnson-Marshall hopes more students will continue to register. The competitive environment of both Georgia Tech and the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines, however, may hinder some students from freely admitting their needs.

“We want students to be judged by what they can do, not what they can’t,” she said. “I’d rather see them fall because they didn’t study than because they didn’t have an accommodation they needed.” Accommodations could include a few extra minutes to take an exam, or a testing location other than the regular classroom.

In the realm of physical assistance, Disability Services helps coordinate resources for students to overcome physical limitations, whether they’re permanent or caused by a stint on crutches. The turnaround time for receiving temporary services is about 48 hours after applying. For longer-term needs, both mental and physical, applications are processed in about 15 business days.

Students who don’t need the resources of Disability Services could consider becoming employees. The office, which is part of the Division of Student Affairs, hires more than 130 students each semester to serve as note takers for students with disabilities. Prospective note takers may apply online at the beginning of each semester.

http://adapts.gatech.edu

Buzzworthy Achievements

The following Georgia Tech employees have been honored in recent months:

- **Jim Dai**
  Prof. in the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISyE), was appointed editor-in-chief of Mathematical Operations Research, the international journal of the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences.

- **Mandy Volpe**, marketing manager for the Department of Housing, was named to Rejuvenate Magazine’s “40 Under 40” industry leader list.

- **Julie Swann**, Harold R. and Mary Anne Nash Associate Professor in ISyE and co-director of the Center for Health and Humanitarian Logistics, was named the College of Engineering’s Georgia Power Professor of Excellence for 2012.

- **Muhammad Bakir**, associate professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Daniel Goldman, assistant professor in the School of Physics, were named 2012 DARPA Young Faculty Award Winners.

- **C.F. Jeff Wu**, ISyE professor and Coca-Cola Chair in Engineering Statistics, gave the 2012 Deming Lecture, an honor from the American Statistical Association given to an individual who has made significant contributions in the field of statistics.

- **Gwen Fernandes**, assistant director of International Students and Scholar Service, received the 2012 Fulbright High Potential Education Administrators Post-Doctoral Award.

- **Seong-Hee Kim**, associate professor in ISyE, was named president of the INFORMS Simulation Society for the July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2014, term.

- **Alex Shapiro**, professor in ISyE, was named editor-in-chief of Mathematical Programming, the official journal of the Mathematical Optimization Society.

- **Shatalkesh Dhongde**, assistant professor in the School of Economics, was awarded the Nancy and Richard Ruggles Memorial Fellowship for her paper, “Measuring Segregation of the Poor in India,” at the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth General Conference.

- **John Carter Jr.**, president and chief operation officer of the Georgia Tech Foundation Inc., received a Commonwealth Institutionally Related Foundation Award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

**MLK, continued from page 1**

“I consider it an honor to be invited to share my father’s message, particularly during the King Holiday,” King said. “I look forward to speaking at Georgia Tech and meeting with students at one of our nation’s premier institutions for higher learning.”

Faculty, staff, and students are also invited to the following MLK celebration events:

- **Campuswide Student Celebration: Coming Together to Fulfill the Dream**
  Jan 10 at 7 p.m.
  This event will feature student speeches, cultural celebrations and a candle lighting ceremony.

- **A Day of Service**
  Jan 21 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
  Make a difference with “A Day On, Not a Day Off,” and join Tech’s third annual MLK Day of Service. For details on how to volunteer, contact Sarah Perkins at sarah.perkins@ppss.gatech.edu. (There are 250 volunteer spots available.)

- **Civil Rights Tour of Birmingham, Ala.**
  Jan. 26
  Faculty and students will visit key Civil Rights sites, including the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and the 16th Street Baptist Church. The trip is limited to 30 faculty members and 70 students. Faculty members interested in attending should email Stephanie Ray at stephanie.ray@ppss.gatech.edu.

- **Making a Difference with MLK**, a Day Off," and join Tech’s third annual MLK Day of Service. For details on how to volunteer, contact Sarah Perkins at sarah.perkins@ppss.gatech.edu. (There are 250 volunteer spots available.)

- **Civil Rights Tour of Birmingham, Ala.**
  Jan. 26
  Faculty and students will visit key Civil Rights sites, including the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and the 16th Street Baptist Church. The trip is limited to 30 faculty members and 70 students. Faculty members interested in attending should email Stephanie Ray at stephanie.ray@ppss.gatech.edu.

- **A Day of Service**
  Jan 21 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
  Make a difference with “A Day On, Not a Day Off,” and join Tech’s third annual MLK Day of Service. For details on how to volunteer, contact Sarah Perkins at sarah.perkins@ppss.gatech.edu. (There are 250 volunteer spots available.)

- **Civil Rights Tour of Birmingham, Ala.**
  Jan. 26
  Faculty and students will visit key Civil Rights sites, including the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and the 16th Street Baptist Church. The trip is limited to 30 faculty members and 70 students. Faculty members interested in attending should email Stephanie Ray at stephanie.ray@ppss.gatech.edu.

For a complete list of all MLK events, visit www.diversity.gatech.edu/MLK-celebration
Use plates that are the same color as your tablecloth to serve yourself less.

In 2011, a study published in The Journal of Marketing Research found that people who served themselves from larger plates and bowls ate more food, even though they were also aware of the greater ice cream quantities. Bottom line: “If you want to lose weight, use smaller china and flatware,” van Ittersum said.

Why do we tend to over-serve ourselves with larger plates and bowls? Blame it on the Delboeuf illusion — the optical illusion that leads people to think two identical circles are different in size if one is surrounded by a larger circle. In food terms, the inner circle (what you put on your plate/bowl) looks smaller when the outside circle (the plate/bowl) is larger, causing you to over-serve.

How Color Determines Portion Sizes

Color can also help control portion sizes. In a 2011 study, people served themselves considerably more white-sauce pasta on white plates than red-sauce pasta on white plates. Again, it’s because of the Delboeuf illusion. White on white or red on red doesn’t provide enough visual contrast between the target serving area and the outer edge of the plate, increasing one’s tendency to over-serve on large plates, van Ittersum said.

His advice? If you own dinnerware in different colors, make sure the plate highly contrasts with the color of the main course. You’ll serve yourself less.

You can also go one step further with the color of your tablecloth or placemat. “If you place a white plate on a white tablecloth, the Delboeuf illusion is lessened because the outside circle essentially disappears and you only focus on the inside circle, which is the target food area,” van Ittersum said.

Music, Lighting Affect Eating Patterns

Once you’re finally sitting at the dinner table, you can create an environment that helps increase the enjoyment of your meal and cuts calories. In a 2013 study with Brian Wansink at Cornell University, van Ittersum modified the dining area of a fast food restaurant. One half of the seating area was unchanged, complete with the loud noise and bright lights typically found in a fast food restaurant. The other half was transformed into a soundproof, fine dining area with indirect lighting, tablecloths and jazz music piped through speakers.

People in the quieter area ate an average of 18 percent less of their meals, even though they spent more time at the table. They also rated the food as tasting better than those who sat in the traditional section.

“The more relaxed the environment, the less a person tends to eat,” van Ittersum said. “Use tablecloths or nice placemats. Turn off the TV. Flip on the radio and play soft music. Relax and enjoy your food and the people at the table.”

Use plates that are the same color as your tablecloth to serve yourself less.