Strategic Initiative Teams Provide Updates

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Members of the Georgia Tech community recently received a preview for many of the ideas intended to push the Institute closer to realizing its vision as the technological research university of the 21st century.

Co-chairs for 11 of the 16 projects in active development were present for the Jan. 23 event, each providing a broad overview of the challenge as well as some preliminary recommendations for advancement on a range of subjects that include undergraduate education, technology transfer and campus culture. Active projects were selected from more than 130 white papers that were submitted in response to Tech’s 25-year strategic plan.

“When you consider the number of projects and the number of people involved in each one, you begin to notice the significant percentage of our faculty and staff who are engaged and invested in bringing our strategic plan to life,” Provost Rafael L. Bras observed. “It is very encouraging to see the vast representation from our community planning for Georgia Tech’s future.”

Formed and charged last August, the Strategic Plan Implementation Steering Committee is comprised of faculty, staff and students, each of whom is assigned as a liaison to one of the projects under development. Each was on hand, together with members of the senior leadership team, to listen to the presentations and prompt some early discouphs and perhaps some consolidation opportunities to be explored,” said School of Civil and Environmental Engineering Professor David Frost, a member of the Strategic Plan Implementation Steering Committee.

Leaders Focus on Improving Tech’s Campus Safety, Security

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Georgia Tech has been in the media for recent crimes reported both on and off campus, but the Institute has also been very active in putting resources in place that help to improve campus safety and security.

“The safety and security of Georgia Tech students, faculty and staff is our highest priority,” said President G. P. Bud Peterson. “We continue to take additional measures and employ new techniques both on campus and in the surrounding neighborhoods to ensure their safety, including the recent addition of five new officers to our Georgia Tech Police Department and initiatives like Jacket Guardian and the SkyCop mobile surveillance unit.”

North Avenue Dining Hall Adjusts Hours of Operation

North Avenue Dining Hall is returning to 24-hour service from Monday through Thursday. Learn more at www.gatechdining.com.

TechArts Brings Events to Campus the Week of Feb. 13

From a 3-D drawing experience that incorporates artificial intelligence to a competition that features cutting-edge musical instruments such as a partially edible toy piano, there will be something for every arts lover on campus the week of Feb. 13.

TechArts, a campus-wide initiative inspired by Georgia Tech’s strategic plan, will produce three events during the week. The initiative is co-chaired by Aaron Bobick, professor and chair of Interactive Computing, and Gil Wiesenb, associate professor of Music and director of the Music Technology Center.

“With TechArts, our goal is to both push the boundaries of research and innovation at the boundary between art and technology and to enhance and nurture the creativity of the entire community here at Tech,” Bobick said. Read on to learn the details of each event:

• Drawn Together, Feb. 13, 7 p.m., Stubbins Studio Gallery
• The 2012 Guthman Competition is one of three events that TechArts will sponsor the week of Feb. 13.
Snakes Improve Search-and-Rescue Robots

Designing an all-terrain robot for search-and-rescue missions is an arduous task for scientists. The machine must be flexible enough to move over uneven surfaces, yet not so big that it’s restricted from tight spaces.

It might also be required to climb slopes of varying inclines. Existing robots can do many of these things, but the majority require large amounts of energy and are prone to overheating. Georgia Tech researchers have designed a new machine by studying the locomotion of a certain type of flexible, efficient animal.

“Young their scales to control frictional properties, snakes are able to move large distances while exerting very little energy,” said Hamid Marvi, a Mechanical Engineering PhD candidate.

While studying and videotaping movements of 20 species at Zoo Atlanta, Marvi developed Scalybot 2, a robot that replicates rectilinear locomotion of snakes. He recently unveiled the robot at the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology annual meeting in Charleston, S.C.

“During rectilinear locomotion, a snake doesn’t have to bend its body laterally to move,” Marvi said. “Snakes lift their ventral scales and pull themselves forward by sending a muscular traveling wave from head to tail.”

Rectilinear locomotion is very efficient and is especially useful for crawling within crevices, an invaluable benefit for search-and-rescue robots.

Scalybot 2 was designed after Georgia Tech researchers studied the movements of snakes.

Two of the new officers will be assigned to crime prevention, while the other three will be assigned to patrol. One of the new patrol officers will be assigned to the partnership with the Atlanta Police Department unit that patrols the northern border of Tech’s campus as well as the Home Park and Atlantic Station area.
Tech Employees Find Love on Campus

In honor of Valentine's Day, we decided to highlight four couples on campus who fell in love here — and managed to maintain the spark over the years.

Debbie and Robbie Rice
Debbie, director of information technology for Enrollment Services, and Robbie, a mechanic in Facilities, have been together for five years. Although Debbie had known Robbie since 1992, he didn't ask her to dinner until 2007. Initially, she said no — she thought he was too young. But Debbie reconsidered and accepted. Although it wasn't sure we would have enough in common to have a 15-minute conversation, we sat at the Flying Biscuit Café and talked for more than three hours,” Debbie said. She knew it was meant to be the first time she visited his home and he was cooking dinner and handed her a favorite drink. “I knew that Debbie was the one when she went to a conference, and I realized that I didn't want to ever be without her,” Robbie added. The two agree that the best part of having a spouse on campus is having a built-in carpool buddy — especially since their commute is more entertaining.

Colleen and Scott Riggle
Colleen, assistant dean and director of the Women’s Resource Center, and Scott, an application developer in Student Affairs, got together five years ago. Although the two had chatted quite a bit, it was hard to find time for a date because they lived on opposite sides of town. “We went to lunch one day at Rocky Mountain Pizza, which was our first official date,” Colleen said. “However, our first dinner date was after attending the Women’s Center production of Eve Ensler’s ‘The Vagina Monologues.’ It was his first time seeing the production, and I knew that he was a keeper at that point!” They realized it was time to make things official when Colleen was selected to go on the Oxford Student Abroad trip as a group leader.

Judy and Mark Reese
Judy, an academic advisor in the College of Management, and Mark, a senior facilities manager in the School of Industrial and Systems Engineering, went on their first date 11 years ago. The two had met but hadn’t seen each other for years when one day, Mark just started thinking about her and decided to give Judy a call. “It was a coincidence,” he said. “Judy was about to call me because she was having car trouble and needed a ride home. I started talking, one thing led to another and here we are.”

Like all of the other couples, the Reesees think one of the biggest advantages of working together is saving on parking and gas — and your commute is more entertaining. “Also, by working at the same place, you understand what the other’s work day is like and what each of you do,” Mark added.

Jeanne and John Balsam
Jeanne and John, who both work in the Electronic Systems Lab at the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI), have been together since 1977. The two met when John came to work at the Engineering Experiment Station (EES), now known as GTRI. Jeanne was a student assistant who graduated soon afterward and stayed at EES as a research scientist. “Our first time out of the office together was for a Tech football game,” Jeanne said. After dating for a while, John asked Jeanne to move to Boston with him, and her response was ‘Not if we aren’t married.’” So, John proposed on New Year’s Eve.

“Our relationship is full of Tech traditions,” Jeanne said. “We have season football and basketball tickets and enjoy tailgating and going to the Wreck Homecoming Parade — we drove our 1967 GTO in this past year’s parade. We’ve also participated for several years in the Georgia Tech Auto Show.”

“Art and technology are more entwined than ever before,” said Judy. “We really loved going to Junior’s for breakfast, but our new tradition is running the Pi Mile race each spring,” Colleen added.

It was then that we knew that we never wanted to be apart again,” Scott said. “It was, and to this day has been, the longest we’ve ever been apart.” And the two have a few Tech traditions they enjoy sharing.

“We really loved going to Junior’s for breakfast, but our new tradition is running the Pi Mile race each spring,” Colleen added.

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

CLASSIFIEDS

For rent: lovely home “on golden pond” in beautiful Mountain Park, Roswell community. Excellent Mtn. Park elementary school, village green and community pool. Architecturally unique features include three bedrooms, two baths, marble floors, easy maintenance and outdoor room for year-round comfort. Lake views throughout. Email jeannemw@gmail.com.

For sale: 1997 Honda Civic, manual. 122,000 miles, 155,000 miles. White with beige leather seats. 240 hp, 32-valve, V-6 engine. 4-disc CD changer, nonsmok- ing owner. $3,000 or best offer. Great, 6,000 ORO. Call 404-428-6820.

REAL ESTATE/ROOMMATES

For rent: lovely home “on golden pond” in beautiful Mountain Park, Roswell community. Excellent Mtn. Park elementary school, village green and community pool. Architecturally unique features include three bedrooms, two baths, marble floors, easy maintenance and outdoor room for year-round comfort. Lake views throughout. Email jeannemw@gmail.com or call 404-275-8450.

2BR/2BA condo for rent. Piedmont Park is your front yard. Private entrance, two reserved parking spaces just steps from your front door. Five minutes to campus. $1,450/month. Call 770-331-7974 or email jckmck6912@gmail.com.

2BR/2BA left with garage in historic building with gated entrance at 434 Marietta St. #103. Half-mile walking distance from Georgia Tech. Large kitchen with stainless appliances. Extra large master suite with double vanities, walk-in shower, tub-in-shower and walk-in closet. Community rooftop deck, a grill and patio furniture. $339,oo. Contact Readers at 404-797-2883.

TECHARTS, continued from page 1

a collaboration among digital artists The Open Ended Group and students and faculty from the Center for Music Technology and the College of Architecture. Drawn Together will allow participants to interact with artificial intelligence agents to create unforeseen and original drawings and musical responses. The Open Ended Group’s Drawn Together will allow participants to interact with artificial intelligence agents to create unforeseen and original drawings and musical responses. The Open Ended Group’s Drawn Together will allow participants to interact with artificial intelligence agents to create unforeseen and original drawings and musical responses. The Open Ended Group’s Drawn Together will allow participants to interact with artificial intelligence agents to create unforeseen and original drawings and musical responses. The Open Ended Group’s

Which includes saxophonist and electronic musician Jonathan Sanford and percussionist and composer David Skidmore. Simmon will also play her own version of the composition “Bafana,” which is for four human musicians and Georgia Tech’s improvising robotic musician, Shimon. Tickets for faculty and staff are $14, while student tickets may be purchased for $10. Regularly priced tickets are $28.

The goal for next year is to offer a fullledged TechArts-sponsored festival that will feature everything from community-based art to professionally commissioned installations that “push the limit of arts and technology,” Weinberg said. “Art and technology are more entwined than ever before,” said Rafael L. Bras, provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs. “If Georgia Tech intends to define the technological research university of the 21st century, we have to find ways to incorporate the arts into everything we do, from research to our curricula. These events are the first major step that TechArts is taking to accomplish this.”
The Situation
You are grading a student’s paper and realize that several passages are borderline plagiarized from a text you’re familiar with. They aren’t verbatim, but they are similar enough to make you uncomfortable and to consider speaking with the student. What would you do?

The Response
To proactively deal with the issue of plagiarism, Richard Barke always includes the following website on his syllabus: www.princeton.edu/pt/pah/integrity/pages/plagiarism/. The site provides examples of various versions of plagiarism.

“I tell students that these examples are clear enough and that there will be no ‘I didn’t know where the line was.’”

In this case, if it’s a first offense, then Barke thinks that a serious chat might be enough, followed by close scrutiny.

“But if it’s total cut-and-paste, or there’s a pattern of skirting the edge, it’s time to go to the Office of Student Integrity,” he added. According to Cara Appel-Silbaugh, interim director of Student Integrity, you would have two options: speak with the student or refer it to Student Integrity (visit www.osi.gatech.edu for more information). Regardless of which option you choose, she advises you to remember the following:

• Keep your own copy of all materials in a secure location.
• Refer from discussing the case in the classroom or with other students.
• The accused student is expected to continue attending your course and complete all assignments in the course until the matter is resolved.
• Students should be provided the grade of “Incomplete” on the questionable assignment until the matter is resolved.

What is something you’ve learned from the students you work with?
“I realize that you don’t have to know all of the details of your field to make key contributions. The 12 undergraduates that I mentor have a navezite about them that allows them to ask questions that more seasoned researchers don’t feel comfortable asking. Sometimes, their questions can lead to great discoveries.”

What piece of technology could you not live without?
“My laptop is like the left hemisphere of my brain.”

Which do you prefer and why: Facebook, Twitter or a world without all of this social media stuff?
“I’m not on Facebook or Twitter and previously haven’t really seen the value in either. However, my involvement in these elite competitions is forcing me to reevaluate my stance on this, because I want people to be part of the Olympic dream and adventure.”

“Never, never, never give up.”

“Handcycling events are 10 to 30 miles, help solidify her chances of competing in World Championships. She also became the first Cycliste International Para-cycling World Championships. Mitchell needs now is the thumbs up that she’ll be competing in the London 2012 games.”

The Response
To proactively deal with the issue of plagiarism, Richard Barke always includes the following website on his syllabus: www.princeton.edu/pt/pah/integrity/pages/plagiarism/. The site provides examples of various versions of plagiarism.

“I tell students that these examples are clear enough and that there will be no ‘I didn’t know where the line was.’”

In this case, if it’s a first offense, then Barke thinks that a serious chat might be enough, followed by close scrutiny.

“But if it’s total cut-and-paste, or there’s a pattern of skirting the edge, it’s time to go to the Office of Student Integrity,” he added. According to Cara Appel-Silbaugh, interim director of Student Integrity, you would have two options: speak with the student or refer it to Student Integrity (visit www.osi.gatech.edu for more information). Regardless of which option you choose, she advises you to remember the following:

• Keep your own copy of all materials in a secure location.
• Refer from discussing the case in the classroom or with other students.
• The accused student is expected to continue attending your course and complete all assignments in the course until the matter is resolved.
• Students should be provided the grade of “Incomplete” on the questionable assignment until the matter is resolved.