Town Hall Attracts Staff from Across Campus

AMELIA PAULK
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Last Friday, a standing-room only crowd of staff members gathered to hear the latest news about Georgia Tech from President G. P. “Bud” Peterson and Steve Swant, executive vice president of administration and finance.

“I talk a lot about our students and the ‘other education’ they receive at Tech,” Peterson said. “They learn to be the adults they become from watching how you interact with them and each other. We are fortunate to have you — you help make this institution what it is.”

During the town hall, which was webcast to an overflow room and the Savannah campus, Peterson and Swant provided updates about Tech and various initiatives.

“From the Tech Arts initiative, which was inspired by the strategic plan, to the first annual Art Crawl at Clough Commons, increasing involvement in the arts has become more of a priority than ever at Georgia Tech,” Peterson said. In terms of the student population at Tech, Peterson shared that fall 2012 admission applications are up 3.5 percent from 2011. The Institute also continues to increase its global impact through partnerships with the Korean Institute for the Advancement of Technology and King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals. Another point of pride is that Tech was recently named one of 10 National University Transportation Centers.

On the state level, Peterson shared that Tech directly and indirectly impacts TOWN HALL, continued on page 3

HAWK Aids Safe Travel on North Avenue

KRISTEN SHAW
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Fans of the 1980s video game Frogger may have gotten thrills in the past in getting across North Avenue, but a safer path now awaits pedestrians and vehicles alike.

After months of preparation and construction, a HAWK (High-intensity Activated crossWalK) beacon was activated on North Avenue outside the Alumni House in April. The new pedestrian-activated signal responds to the push of a button by those needing to cross the street. Unlike most crosswalks, the HAWK responds instantaneously and begins a series of light signal changes that lead drivers to stop and pedestrians safely across the street.

“Officers will soon begin citing those who do not obey the signal, both on foot and in vehicles. “We’ve had quite a few pedestrian/vehicle accidents there,” said Georgia Tech Police Department Captain Regina Rogers. “The decision was made to put in a high-tech crosswalk for progress continues to be made on the new McCamish Pavilion, which is on schedule to open this October — just in time for basketball season. This photo was taken inside the pavilion last week. For more information about the project, visit www.gtmccamishpavilion.com

McCamish Pavilion to Open in October

www.whistle.gatech.edu

HAWK, continued on page 3

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Smith to Retire after 42 Years at Tech

AMELIA PAVLIK
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

In 1970, the Beatles disbanded, the Environmental Protection Agency was established and Anderson Smith joined the faculty in the School of Psychology at Georgia Tech. After decades of service to the Institute, Smith will retire at the end of this month.

“Georgia Tech has provided me with the ideal environment for an experimental psychologist. Our psychology department is scientifically oriented, and there’s not the tension that’s often present in departments that train experimental psychologists and also train clinical psychologists who go into private practice,” said Smith, who has served as senior vice provost for academic affairs since 2007. “No one could have lessured me away.”

Smith will continue to assist the Office of the Provost on a part-time basis as a special advisor, providing support on projects and activities that he has considerable experience with such as the academic needs of student athletes, programming for the Clough Commons and other issues related to undergraduate education and students.

“For more than 40 years, Anderson Smith has diligently served the students and faculty of Georgia Tech,” said Provost Rafael L. Bras. “I’ve learned a great deal from him and would like to thank him, on behalf of the entire campus community, for all that he has done for the Institute. His time and energy have been appreciated more than he knows.”

Former Provost and Interim President Professor Khapaeva is a professor in the School of Chemistry and Biochemistry, has known Smith for 16 years.

“His service has been characterized by an overwhelming dedication to the Institute, its students, faculty and staff. As a senior administrator, Andy Smith exemplifies a passionate and compassionate pursuit of excellence,” he said. “Working with him was a valued and valuable experience for which I shall be forever grateful.”

Before his role as senior vice provost, Smith was vice provost for Undergraduate Studies and Academic Affairs. Between 1994 and 2005 he served as associate dean of the College of Sciences, and prior to that, was chair of the School of Psychology for eight years.

Smith is a Regents Professor and has won both the Outstanding Teacher Award and the Sigma Xi Sustained Research Award. In 2005, the Alumni Association named him an honorary alumnus of Georgia Tech.

“I have known Andy for a long time and have enjoyed working with him in the provost’s office these past four years,” said Ray Vito, the vice provost for graduate and undergraduate studies and professor of mechanical engineering. “His dedication to students and Georgia Tech is perhaps best exemplified by his leadership in making the Clough Commons a reality.”

Smith’s research on psychology has focused on how human memory changes in normal aging. He is a fellow of the American Psychological Association (APA), the Association for Psychological Science and the Gerontological Society. Smith is also past editor of the Journal of Gerontology and served on the National Institute of Health National Advisory Council on Aging. In 2011, the APA selected Smith to receive the Award for the Advancement of Psychology and Aging.

The campus community is invited to celebrate Smith’s retirement at a reception on Tuesday, May 29, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the third-floor gallery of Clough Commons.

www.provost.gatech.edu

New Chairs Named in Ivan Allen College

REBECCA KEANE
IVAN ALLEN COLLEGE

Following a national search, the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts has selected David Laband, Dina Khapaeva and Richard Uz to chair its schools of Economics, Modern Languages, and Literature, Communication, and Culture (LCC), respectively. The appointments are effective Aug. 1.

David Laband currently serves as professor and director of graduate programs for the economics department at Auburn University, where he has focused on building the PhD program and is heading the department’s capital campaign. Previously, he chaired the economics department at Salisbury State University in Maryland.

“I am delighted to be joining the faculty of Georgia Tech and the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts,” Laband said. “I look forward to working across the university community to enhance the contributions of the School of Economics and help develop an internationally prominent program.”

An applied microeconomist, Laband’s research includes substantial work in several of the school’s strategic areas, particularly environmental economics, labor economics and micro-economic analysis. Laband earned a master’s and PhD in economics from Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

Khapova is currently a researcher at Helsinki Collegium at the University of Helsinki. Khapaeva was the inaugural director for International Relations and Research at the Smolny College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, a joint program between St. Petersburg State University and Bard College, Russia’s first “American-style” liberal arts college. She was also the founding director of Smolny Collegium, an institute for advanced studies.

Khapova anticipates focusing on further development and expansion of the School of Modern Languages’ nine modern language tracks and the internationalization and cultural adaptability of students.

She specializes in Russian literature and culture and earned a PhD in history from St. Petersburg State University, St. Petersburg, Russia.

Uz recently completed a four-year term as chair of the Department of English at Western Michigan University. During his career in Europe and the United States, he has served in a wide variety of leadership positions in the areas of graduate study, tenure and promotion, assessment, scholarly communication and strategic planning.

“I see my new position in LCC as a unique opportunity to bridge the allegedly semiperipheral chasm between science and technology on the one hand and humanistic inquiry on the other,” Uz said. “My goal as a scholar, teacher and administrator is to further innovate interdisciplinary collaboration among specialists from traditionally separate disciplines, which in my view, is the only promising way to solve the complex social and cultural problems of the future. GT, IAC, and LCC’s strategic mission to support such creative collaborative work is what attracted me to join this distinguished institution.”

Uz currently serves as president of the International Society for the Study of Medieval and is an established interdisciplinary scholar of medieval culture and its reception in postmedieval times. He earned a master’s and a PhD from the University of Regensburg, Germany.

www.iac.gatech.edu
Tackling Bus Bunching by ‘Going with the Flow’

LIZ KLIPP
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

As any city dweller knows, buses are rarely on time. It’s typical to wait a while, only to have several buses show up one after another, a phenomenon known as “bus bunching.”

Fortunately, researchers and students at Georgia Tech have developed a possible solution for bus bunching that provides better service to riders, simplifies the job of drivers and reduces work for management.

Industrial and Systems Engineering Professor John Bartholdi and Georgia Tech alumnus Don Eisenstein, a colleague from the University of Chicago, have devised a way of using a system known as “The Whistle” to reduce delays and improve service to riders, simplifying the job of drivers and reducing work for management.

Now an interdisciplinary team of Georgia Tech students, together with Tech Parking and Transportation Services, have built a system of tablet computers to control the trolleys on Tech’s main campus route, which carries more than 5,000 passengers a day.

“Because of its simplicity, our scheme is easy to implement and easy to adapt,” said Bartholdi, who is also the Manhattan Associates Chair of Supply Chain Management. “We expect it to be useful for other transportation systems with short headways, such as subway trains or airport shuttles.”

The first step toward reliable bus service, Bartholdi says, is to abandon the fixed schedule and have drivers go with the flow of traffic. Under the scheme, each bus is equipped with a GPS and cellphone. The GPS continually reports the bus’s position to a central server. When the server recognizes the bus has reached a stop, it sends a message via cellphone telling the driver how long to wait and when to proceed.

That departure time is calculated through a self-equilating equation, which changes the headway of each newly arrived bus to an average of its former headway and the headway of the trailing bus. For example, if its former headway was larger, its new headway becomes smaller. Using the equation, gaps between buses equalize even if a bus is added or removed, or if the bus route changes.

“One of the important things is that people can use a smartphone or tablet to communicate directly with the next bus,” Bartholdi says. “Assuming the bus has a phone number, you can call the bus, and the bus driver can locate you.”

The researchers say this type of system is particularly useful in urban settings where buses are planning to stop at a designated location, such as a bus stop. The system is designed to improve bus service by providing real-time updates to passengers and managing traffic to reduce delays.

The researchers say the system can be implemented in cities around the world where buses are a common form of public transportation. They have already tested the system in Atlanta and are working with other cities to implement similar systems. They hope to expand the system to other cities in the future.

Institute Seeks Leader for International Initiatives

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Following the announcement that Steven McLaughlin accepted the position as chair of the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Provost Rafael L. Bras has issued a call for applications and nominations to lead the Institute’s global initiatives.

A member of the provost’s leadership team, the vice provost for International Initiatives and Steven A. Denning Chair in Global Engagement is responsible for Georgia Tech’s global strategy, international educational activities and engagement in research, education and economic development.

The vice provost currently oversees the Office of International Education, GT Lorraine, GT Global, and planned and emerging global platforms.

While applications and nominations will be received until the vice provost is selected, interested parties are encouraged to submit their materials no later than June 15. To view the position description and application information, visit www.provost.gatech.edu.

TOURNAMENT, continued from page 1

approximately 70,000 jobs in Georgia and has helped to land more than 30 corporate relocations and expansions over the past three years.

“We have also collaborated with the state on projects including the recent REACH Scholarship,” Peterson said. “The first University System of Georgia institution to partner with the governor on this project, which will target middle school students who have the academic skills for college but may struggle to afford it.”

Following the presentation, the audience was invited to ask questions. Peterson and Swant were asked about their stance on telecommuting — which Peterson is “very supportive of.” However, Peterson emphasized that employees need to work out an agreement with their supervisors.

The two also addressed the future of Georgia Tech Savannah and the decision to no longer offer undergraduate programs at the campus.

“By next fall, all faculty from Savannah should be back in Atlanta, and the Savannah campus will be focused on distance and professional education,” Peterson said.

And according to Swant, things are starting to improve when it comes to the financial state of Tech.

“The important thing for us to remember is that Georgia Tech has a history of continuing to dream, design and build in good and challenging times,” Swant said. “Buildings such as the Engineered Biosystems Building and the efforts of many in this room are a commitment that we are here for the long haul. After each of us retires or leaves Tech, our legacy will impact many sets of freshmen, graduate students and faculty in the years to come.”

HAWK, continued from page 1

pedestrian safety for the people in the surrounding buildings and those who park in the area to help them travel safely.”

The North Avenue HAWK is one of the first in the metro Atlanta area. When activated, it first flashes yellow to vehicular traffic, then goes solid yellow, then solid red to provide a safe window for crossing. After 15 seconds, the solid red begins to flash. At this point, cars may proceed if the sidewalk is clear and they have come to a stop as they would at a stop sign. The standard red hand and white walker images are used to signal to pedestrians when they should cross.

After allowing 30 days for education and adjustment, officers will soon begin citing those who do not obey the signal, both on foot and in vehicles.

“A ticket is not cheap, so we want to educate people,” Rogers said. “Georgia Tech doesn’t make money off citations. It goes to a state general fund, and none of it comes back to the Institute.”

Drivers are liable to receive a citation for failure to obey a traffic control device or failure to yield to a pedestrian at a crosswalk; pedestrians may be cited for obedience to traffic-control devices and traffic regulations. All citations cost around or more than $200. Pedestrians who are advised to activate the signal for all instances of crossing the street, even during times of lighter traffic.

www.isye.gatech.edu

www.provost.gatech.edu

www.w whistle.gatech.edu
Stone Aims to Cool Cities through Design

AMELIA PAVLIK COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

“Hotlanta” has become a popular nickname for the city based on the high temperatures that are synonymous with Atlanta’s summers. But Brian Stone wants people to realize that the heat in the city isn’t just the result of weather patterns.

“I’ve looked at cities around the world, and they are warming twice as fast as other areas around the globe,” said Stone, an associate professor in the School of City and Regional Planning. “My research focuses on how we can make cities cooler by changing the physical design elements.”

Some solutions for keeping cities cool include planting more trees and preserving natural shade. Increasing the reflectivity of buildings by using less black roofing and asphalt and finding ways to reduce the amount of heat emitted through buildings and cars are other ways to accomplish this, Stone added. He recently published a book on the subject titled, “The City and the Coming Climate: Climate Change in the Places We Live.”

Recently, The Whistle had an opportunity to learn more about Stone and his time at Georgia Tech. Here’s what he shared.

What did you want to be when you were a child?

“I can tell you that I didn’t want to be a planner — what kid does? I went to college knowing that I wanted to teach and earned a bachelor’s in English. I didn’t really understand what a planner was until after I’d earned a master’s in environmental management and realized that I was interested in cities and air quality. So I pursued my PhD in city and regional planning here at Tech.

How did you end up in your position here?

After I earned my PhD in 2001, I went to the University of Wisconsin-Madison to teach until 2005. Then I was offered a position at Tech and have been here ever since.

What are a few misconceptions about your field?

Zoning is actually very little of what we do as planners; we focus more on public policy. Also, people in my field can be unique at an institution like Tech because we are more interested in behavioral than technological solutions.

What have you learned from your students?

I’ve learned that if students aren’t inspired, they’re not going to learn, which is why a lot of my teaching takes place outside of the classroom. So if I’m teaching about air quality, we visit a power plant. We’re fortunate because Atlanta serves as a great lab for students who are studying planning.

What piece of technology could you not live without?

My solar-powered electric scooter. It looks like a little Vespa, and I have solar panels on my roof at home that collect the energy I need to charge it.

Which do you prefer: Facebook, Twitter or a world without all of this social media stuff?

A world without it.

Where is your favorite spot in Atlanta?

The old-growth forest around the Frazer Center in Candler Park.

What is the greatest risk you’ve ever taken, and did it pay off?

It was probably coming to Tech as a graduate student. It was tough coming to a technical school when my background was in the humanities. But I’d say it paid off in the end.

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

It would be Edward Abbey. He wrote about environmental issues, and I’d enjoy having a conversation with him.

Where is your favorite place to have lunch?

Antico Pizza, and I order the Verdura Pizza.

Tell us something unique about yourself.

I am a self-proclaimed, highly skilled boce ball player. I even have my own court in the backyard.

Don’t Miss Employee Health, Fitness Events May 15-17

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Faculty and staff are invited to check out the following Go T.E.C.H-sponsored health and fitness events:

- May 13: Free Express Fit Classes for Georgia Tech Employees. The 30-minute classes will be held at noon and 12:30 p.m. in studio A of the Campus Recreation Center (CRC). You do not have to be a member to participate, but nonmembers should register for the class at the Member Services desk.

- May 16: Faculty and Staff Health Fair. The event will feature vendors from around the area showcasing their services, including chair massages, screenings and fitness demos. (Vendors will not have their products for sale at the fair.) The fair will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom.

- May 17: President’s Challenge Campus Walk. All departments on campus are invited to not only participate in the campus walk, but also to compete with other departments to see which has the most participants. The walk begins at 3:30 p.m. at the entrance of the CRC. All participants should register with their department leader prior to the event.

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CLASSIFIEDS

3BR/2BA peaceful, furnished, waterfront cottage along the southern outer bays (Morehead City, N.C.); $750/mo. (rate for 2 BR/1.5 BA). Contact Oates at 770-789-0202.

3BR/2BA furnished house for rent in Decatur; $1,500/mo. Contact for question. Available Aug. 1, 2012, to July 15, 2013. Contact Shawn at 404-894-8914 or stavax@athmat.gatech.edu.

4BR/3.5BA house, 3BR/1.5BA for rent in Doraville. Will maintain, good neighborhood, large yard, screened porch, fireplace and hardwood floors. Close to I-455, I-285 and MARTA for an easy commute to GT. Walking distance from shops and restaurants. $1,050/mo., plus utilities. Contact Johannes at Johannes.leisen@chemistry.gatech.edu.

3BR/2BA furnished house for rent in Marietta 30068 — close to I-75; 1 to 2BR/BA and garage. Security, $850 utilities. 770-712-1436.

Lake Lanier deep-water lot and house on the south side of lake. Awesome view, boat slip to water, dock permit, boathouse with swim dock attached and electric gooseneck hoist. House is on a cul-de-sac across lakefront. Call 770-875-8706 or email lakelaner@gmail.com.

Faculty member seeks undergrad or grad female roommate for large furnished studio in Billmore, 855 West Peachtree, for fall 2012 and spring 2013. Monthly rent per person: $550; plus utilities (trash, water, electricity). Email angela.dake@ave Fletcher.gatech.edu.

8BR/130BA townhouse in Panama City Beach. Great location. Priced available upon request. $110K. Contact 404-210-4071 or email angie398A@gmail.com.

Looking for two working professional or grad student roommates to share large, fully furnished 2BR/1BA Bur Khalifa condo. Close to Tech campus. $650/mo., includes utilities and cable/internet. Call 404-581-5552.

Rental to share in Avondale Estates. Private BR/BA with full access to house. Basement for storage. Great location. $600 per month. Utilities included. Email lukiesmydog@hotmail.com.

Well-maintained 3/2 ranch with beautiful yard. Large living room, beautiful kitchen, hardwood floors, freshly painted and ready to move in. 30 minutes from Tech in West Cobb. $850/mo. Contact Shawn Oates at 770-789-6022.

johannes.leisen@chemistry.gatech.edu. 

Ad run for three issues in the order in which they are received.

Email submissions to editor@comm.gatech.edu.

Community News

Register Now for OPTIONS Classes

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Whether it’s learning how to breakdance or create stained glass, this summer’s OPTIONS classes offer something for everyone.

Registration is now open for summer OPTIONS classes and continues until the first day of the respective class. Tech began offering the noncredit class 4 years ago as a way to provide classes for students that were low-stress and “fun,” said Tasha Myers, who oversees OPTIONS.

Most classes are held in the Student Center or elsewhere on campus. Anyone, including people outside of the Tech community, may take the classes. The cost varies, with the fee structure being least expensive for students and then faculty and staff members.

The classes are offered in the following areas: experiences, arts and crafts, language, dance, recreation, music and miscellaneous. The start dates vary, based on the course, with many beginning in late May or early June. Several courses run through July.

More information about taking or teaching a class, email Myers at tasha.myers@stcen.gatech.edu. To view the full summer schedule, go to options.gatech.edu

www.whistle.gatech.edu

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