**ASK AWAY**

Is there a centralized website for everything arts-related at Georgia Tech?

The newly formed Council of the Arts and Office of the Arts have launched www.arts.gatech.edu—a site that features information about everything from student concerts to research projects. Members of the campus community are invited to contribute content to the site. For more information, email jenna.farmer@arts.gatech.edu.

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

**NEWS BRIEFS**

Faculty, Staff Appreciation Day at Tech vs. Duke Game

Faculty and staff members can purchase tickets to the Nov. 17 football game against Duke for $10 with a valid BuzzCard. Learn more at tinyurl.com/cdwqtch

**News Flash**

**Tuition Assistance Deadline Is This Week**

The Spring 2013 semester deadline for the Board of Regents Tuition Assistance Program is Nov. 15. tinyurl.com/c2z8ybp

**Philanthropy Results Are Near-Record**

For the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2012, private gift income to Tech and its associated foundations totaled $118.4 million. Read more at tinyurl.com/bzvs23c

**Institute Establishes Search Committee for Athletic Director**

President G. P. “Bud” Peterson has named a seven-member search committee that will recommend candidates to fill the vacant position of athletic director. The panel includes current Tech faculty and staff, alumni, and a recent student-athlete.

The committee will advise Peterson on a successor for Dan Radakovich, who resigned on Oct. 26 to accept a similar position at Clemson University. The new athletic director will oversee a department that includes more than 400 student-athletes representing the Institute in 17 varsity sports.

Peterson has selected alumnus Stephen P. Zelnak Jr. to chair the committee. A member of the Georgia Tech Foundation Board of Trustees, Zelnak is the former chairman and president of Martin Marietta Materials of Raleigh, N.C.

Other committee members include Sue Ann Allen, associate dean for faculty development and scholarship in the

**40,000+ Enroll in First GT Coursera Course**

Sitting in front of a camera and giving a lecture to students you can’t see is intimidating. This is just one of the things that Tucker Balch has learned about the process of teaching a massive open online course (or MOOC) through Coursera.

“One of the reasons I enjoy teaching in front of students is because I can see if they’re getting the material, but lecturing online is like diagnosing an illness over the Internet. It’s a challenge,” said Balch, an associate professor in the School of Interactive Computing. “Instead of gauging reactions, I really have to pay attention to the online forums to see if people understand.”

In late October, Balch began teaching Georgia Tech’s first free class on Coursera to more than 40,000 students, ranging from retirees to high schoolers, around the world.

The course, Computational Investing Part 1, runs eight weeks and focuses on how modern electronic financial markets work, why stock prices change and how computation can help people to better understand these issues.

“Tucker Balch’s Computational Investing Part 1 course is Tech’s first offering on the free online learning platform Coursera. “I’ve had colleagues tell me that there’s much less support for teaching these types of courses at other universities,” Balch said. “I’m really proud of Georgia Tech for being bold enough to give this a try.”

Although Balch thinks that the ideal teaching environment is still a single

**Attend Nov. 16 Festival at Community Garden**

You don’t have to go far to find fresh food on campus. In fact, on the southeast side of the Instructional Center lawn, a plethora of fresh produce grows from six garden beds maintained by Students Organizing for Sustainability (SOS).

Last spring, SOS took its community garden from a nook on East Campus to the new West Campus location. In a few weeks, the group will have its inaugural fall crop.

Stephanie Kehl, vice president of SOS and a second-year chemical engineering major, oversees the garden — equipped with a “green thumb” acquired by watching her dad take up gardening in recent years. She and others who tend the garden hope to provide food and knowledge to the campus community.

“All members of the campus community are invited to lend a hand in the community garden located on the Instructional Center lawn.”

People are confused about where their food comes from, but it’s something you should know,” Kehl said, who hopes the Georgia Tech community can learn more about their food sources by participating in the garden.

SOS will host a Fall Festival at the garden on Friday, Nov. 16, giving the community a chance to see what goes on and even plant something of their own.

**Institution of Computing**

**continues on page 3**

**GARDEN**, continued on page 3

**THE Whistle**

Georgia Tech’s Faculty/Staff Newspaper • Vol. 37, No. 23 • November 12, 2012

www.whistle.gatech.edu
CONFERENCES AND LECTURES

November 14
The Georgia Tech Cyber Security Summit will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at Georgia Tech Research Institute and is free and open to the public. Register at tsengur.com/cyissum

Henry Wiencek will host a talk (followed by a book signing) about his latest book, “Master of the Mountain: Thomas Jefferson and His Slaves,” at 1 p.m. in the Library’s Neely Room.

The IMPACT Speaker Series presents Robin Bieferal, chief information officer of Blackberry, at 4:30 p.m. in LeCraw Auditorium, College of Business. http://itsc.gatech.edu/IMPACT.html

November 16
Geoffrey Harris, deputy head of the European Parliament Liaison Office with the U.S. Congress, will give a lecture on “The European Union’s Role in Human Rights: Problems and Prospects” at 1 p.m. in the Library’s Neely Room.

November 19
The Georgia Tech Chorus, Jazz Ensemble I, Combined Symphonic Orchestras and Symphony Orchestra will perform a holiday concert at 7:30 p.m. at the Ferst Center for the Arts. Admission is free with a BuzzCard; general admission tickets are $15.

www.music.gatech.edu

November 20
Talia N. Tech presents Bill Gates, who will address the audience and take questions via Twitter from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. in room 152 and 154, Clough Commons. Students will be given priority seating, but faculty and staff are also invited to attend. http://talks.gatech.edu

Events continued on page 3

Library and Science Fiction

The Ferst Center presents the Urban Ensemble I, Combined Symphonic Orchestras and the Symphonic Winds to perform music for small ensembles at 7:30 p.m. in room 115, Couch Music Building. Admission is free. www.music.gatech.edu

November 14-16
DramaTech presents Neil Simon’s “Laughter on the 23rd Floor” at 8 p.m. Visit the DramaTech website for more information about performance dates and tickets. www.dramatech.org

November 15-18
The Ferst Center presents the Urban Nutcracker. Check the center’s website for times and ticket information. www.ferstcenter.gatech.edu

November 22
The Sci Fi Lab is to present the show and a computational media major, Adam Le Doux, program manager, a host of the show and a computational media major.

www.music.gatech.edu

November 29
The Georgia Tech Chorus, Jazz Ensemble I, Combined Symphonic Orchestras and Symphony Orchestras will perform a holiday concert at 7:30 p.m. at the Ferst Center for the Arts. Admission is free with a BuzzCard; general admission tickets are $15.

www.music.gatech.edu

November 30
The School of Library, Media and Communication (LMC) in the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts coordinates Sci Fi Lab with the Library and WREK.

“Six years into the program, we find that now we’re approaching authors and artists who want to appear on the show, and we’ve even been studied in the University of Liverpool’s grad program in Science Fiction Studies as an example of living science fiction,” said Lisa Yaszek, a professor in LMC and inclusive excellence; and providing diversity consultation services to support climate assessment in academic and administrative units.

Ancis is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and has been published widely in the area of multicultural competence and diversity. Prior to Tech, Ancis was a professor in the Department of Counseling and Psychological Services at Georgia State University. She has also held a faculty appointment at Old Dominion University.

www.diversity.gatech.edu

In September, the Office of Institute Diversity welcomed Julie R. Ancis, as its new associate vice president.

“Dr. Ancis’ academic expertise on the intersections of identities and social climate makes her an excellent fit for this role, as much of her time will be devoted to helping our campus learn about our strengths and opportunities and building upon our successes in pursuit of our inclusive excellence agenda,” said Archie Ervin, vice president for Institute Communications.

www.institute-diversity.gatech.edu

Some of her responsibilities will include assessing Tech’s progress in achieving diversity, equity and inclusive excellence; developing and coordinating training and leadership programs focused on diversity and inclusive excellence; and providing diversity consultation services to support climate assessment in academic and administrative units.

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www.diversity.gatech.edu

The estimated workload for students is about five to seven hours per week. At the end of the not-for-credit course, students receive a certificate of completion from C21.

Although Balch has taught distance learning courses in the past, one of the things that was a surprise to him about teaching a MOOC was the amount of time he has needed to put into it.

“These are made up of four 5- to 12-minute lectures,” Balch said. “For each week, students view two modules, with each module being made up of four 3- to 12-minute lectures.

“One of the things I’ve learned is that lectures need to be broken up into short chunks of time, because it’s easier for students to process the material,” Balch said.

To keep students engaged, he tries to use visuals as much as possible. In the future, Balch also plans to integrate interviews with people who work in investing fields (such as hedge fund managers and stock traders) into the lectures.

Students take weekly multiple-choice quizzes and complete optional code-writing projects throughout the course to assess their learning, and projects are peer graded by students in the class.

When it comes to cheating, Balch isn’t as concerned with the issue as he might be with a for-credit course.

“They have nothing to gain by cheating,” he said. “I suppose they could, but that would be like jumping to the end of a good book and skipping the good parts in the middle.”

The estimated workload for students is about five to seven hours per week. At the end of the not-for-credit course, students receive a certificate of completion from C21.

Although Balch has taught distance learning courses in the past, one of the things that was a surprise to him about teaching a MOOC was the amount of time he has needed to put into it.

“Multiply your estimate of time you’ll put into it by two,” he said. “I have spent about 15 to 20 hours a week on this course, because it takes time to make my material online-friendly. But I also realize that when I offer the course next semester, it won’t take up as much time, because I’m not starting from scratch.”

On Jan. 28, 2013, Balch will offer the course again, and several other Tech Coursera courses will also kick off.

For more information about the Institute’s offerings, visit www.coursera.org/gatech

For more information about performance dates and tickets, visit www.music.gatech.edu

www.ile.gatech.edu/IMPACT.html

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www.diversity.gatech.edu
Many believe the H5N1 virus — bird flu — is one of the deadliest viruses known to man, and a Dutch scientist has created a mutant form of the virus that can easily spread from person to person. He wants to publish his findings in an international scientific journal.

Opinions are divided on whether to allow this. Some warn that the information could be used for bioterrorism, while others argue that it could be used to develop new vaccines and drugs to fight dangerous viruses.

Imagine that you’ve been asked to consider this scenario and determine what impact publishing the work will have on the world. Now imagine that you’re only a freshman in college.

Welcome to the course “Problems in Biomedical Engineering,” which all freshmen in Georgia Tech’s Department of Biomedical Engineering (BME) are required to take. During the course, students analyze and respond to scenarios just like this one. “My intention was to have them try on the identity of a biomedical engineer,” said Wendy Newstetter, who helped develop the course.

Students are divided into teams of eight and are given three problems to work through during the course of the semester. Problems can stem from newspaper headlines or a presentation on one of the BME faculty members recently attended at a conference.

“The scenarios we give these students are difficult to work through,” Newstetter said. “But their fear of dealing with these complex issues diminishes as they become more familiar with the problem-solving process.”

At the end of each four-and-a-half-week problem cycle, teams come to a resolution that two team members present to the class. Although the nature of the problems changes from semester to semester, the learning outcomes remain the same and include the following: tackle a complex real-world problem, conduct self-directed inquiry, demonstrate effective group skills and communicate solutions to problems.

In addition to the problem-solving focus of the course, another unique component is that the facilitator-to-student ratio is 8-to-1. Facilitators include faculty members, post doctoral students or graduate students.

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“Problems in Biomedical Engineering.”

The board includes Amelia Gambino, assistant vice president, School of Public Policy to integrate problem-based learning into other curricula. (The Other problem-based courses at Tech in the country to integrate problem-based learning rooms to work through real-world scenarios during the course “Problems in Biomedical Engineering.”

INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

To coordinate coverage of Georgia Tech’s many activities, accomplishments and research outcomes, Institute Communications has established an editorial board.

The board includes Amelia Gambino, assistant vice president, and Lisa Grovenstein, senior director of News and Campus Communications. Michael Hagerty, campus news and events director, John Toon, research news director, and Matt Nagel, media relations and issues management director.

Using the strategic plan as a guide, the board identifies and assigns stories and coordinates coverage and how information will be shared internally and externally.

Newsworthy information or ideas should be submitted through the college, school or unit’s designated communicator. If there is no communicator, ideas may be submitted to the Student Center Craft Center Craft Fair will feature vendors selling handmade crafts and gift items just in time for the holidays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. http://studentcenter.gatech.edu

For more information, contact Newstetter at wendy@bme.gatech.edu www.bme.gatech.edu
Kistenberg Provides Prostheses to People in Need

AMELIA PAVLIK
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

A one-time good deed that involved providing a man in Belize with prosthetic legs has evolved into an ongoing — and ever growing — nonprofit effort for Robert Kistenberg.

It all started while Kistenberg, co-director of the Master of Science in Prosthetics and Orthotics (MSPO) program in the School of Applied Physiology, was teaching at the University of Texas (UT) Southwestern in Dallas in the 1990s.

“A friend of mine was doing medical mission work in Belize when she met a man without legs, who had made to do with getting around on a skateboard,” he said. “When she asked if I could help, I told her that I couldn’t send him a set of legs, that he’d have to come to the United States and that I couldn’t promise anything. Within three days, she’d raised the money, and Adrian was on his way.”

Although the fittings were a success, Kistenberg was concerned about how he’d do follow-up visits with the man to ensure that the prostheses were successful, given the distance.

“I started taking an annual trip to do follow-up with Adrian in 1996, and before I knew it, we had established a permanent clinic — which remains the only prosthetic clinic in Belize,” he said. “The name of the organization in Belize is called Project Hope Belize. The 501(c)(3) organization now aims to provide prostheses to people abroad and in the United States is Prosthetic Hope Belize.”

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“My father died from lung, liver and brain cancer,” she said. “My mother died from Alzheimer’s, and my older brother is now battling the disease. I give because my donations and the donations of others might lead to the cure for one of these diseases.”

As of Nov. 7, the campaign, which will come to a close on Nov. 30, has raised $162,484 toward this year’s goal of $325,000.

“Faculty and staff are invited to make donations through TechWorks (www.techworks.gatech.edu) where they can elect to set up a payroll deduction or make a one-time credit or debit card payment. There is also a pay-by-check/cash option. Checks should be provided to unit ambassadors or to Hope Wilson, campaign chair. Although the other methods are preferred, cash donations are accepted at Tech’s Bursar’s Office in Lyman Hall.

Throughout their coursework, students are working with patient models to create prostheses. I also take students with me to Belize to work in the clinic. These opportunities to work firsthand with patients are the best way to help students learn the material in an engaging way.

“What is one misconception people have about your field?”

“People think most of our patients are the amputees you see in the Olympics or soldiers who are returning from war, when in reality, they are older — and often diabetics — and adults. Fools also tend to confuse the words “prosthetist” and “prostitute,” which can be problematic.

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

“Remote desktop access, because it allows me to do work from anywhere in the world.”

“Where is your favorite place to have lunch?”

“If I’m being good, it’s the salad bar at the Student Center. If I’m not being good, it’s Rocky Mountain Pizza.”

“What is the biggest risk you’ve ever taken — did it pay off?”

“In 2010, I had an opportunity to teach a short course in upper limb prosthetics in Tehran, Iran. I was very conflicted about going but went, and it was a phenomenal experience.

Tell us something about yourself that others might not be aware of.

“One of my professors would mold leftover plastic from prostheses into objects, which gave me the idea to start making mushrooms out of the leftovers. I hate waste, and this allows me to recycle what’s not being used. I’ve included the mushrooms and other prosthetics in a couple of art shows, but I primarily give them as gifts.”

Tech’s 2012 Women of Distinction

This year’s Women of Distinction award recipients were named during the Women’s Leadership Conference, which was held Nov. 2 and 3. Awards went to Janet Murray, professor in the School of Literature, Media and Communication; alumna Pam Arduini, owner of Maestro Strategies LLC; Eta Pittman, director of development for the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering; Kara Evanoff, a PhD candidate in the School of Materials Science and Engineering and Dimple Basal, a fourth-year industrial and systems engineering major.

http://womenscenter.gatech.edu/wlc

Personal Experiences Lead Perry to Volunteer, Give

INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Since Oveta Perry began working in Georgia Tech Facilities 10 years ago, she has volunteered for the Charitable Campaign.

“We have employees that don’t make much money, but they still give as much as they can — whether it’s $1 or more,” said Perry, an administrative manager, who is also the campaign ambassador for her department. “If they can find money to give, anyone at should be able to.”

In addition to her time, Perry also donates money to the campaign. She gives to the American Cancer Society and one of the organizations for Alzheimer’s research.

“My son was diagnosed with oral cancer at age 36, and by the age of 37, he died from lung, liver and brain cancer,” she said. “My mother died from Alzheimer’s, and my older brother is now battling the disease. I give because my donations and the donations of others might lead to the cure for one of these diseases.”

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