Make 2013 Benefits Decisions by Nov. 9

AMELIA PAULIK  INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Beginning Oct. 15, faculty and staff can adjust their benefits selections for the coming year.

“Whether you’re expecting a new addition to your family and need to change your medical insurance coverage or you want to sign up for dental or vision coverage, now is the time to make these changes to your benefits plans,” said Darlene Wright, director of employee benefits.

“And our team is here to make the process as easy as possible.”

This year’s benefits open enrollment period will run through Nov. 9. The following resources are available to faculty and staff to assist them with the decision-making process:

• 2013 Benefits Guide. These were mailed to faculty and staff members’ homes last week.

• Benefits Fair. The fair will be held on Oct. 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom and will feature more than 30 vendors. The benefits team will be also available to assist with any questions.

• Health Plan Evaluators. This new web-based tool can help people identify which of the medical plans offered by Tech is best for them. Nontobacco users may log in at www.ubaplanevaluator.com/gtnontobacco (username: gtnontobacco) for information about what’s changing, plan overviews, tools and resources, FAQs, and how to enroll in benefits.

• Website. Go to www.ohr.gatech.edu/openenrollment for information about what’s changing, plan overviews, tools and resources, FAQs, and how to enroll in benefits.

• Email. Contact a member of the benefits team with your questions by emailing benefits@ohr.gatech.edu.

Annual Safety Statistics Published

INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

From 2009 to 2011, the number of burglaries reported at Georgia Tech has decreased significantly, from 70 in 2009 to 25 in 2011, according to the Georgia Tech Police Department’s (GTPD) 2012 Campus Safety Report.

This is just one of the pieces of information highlighted in the brochure, which features crime statistics from the past three years, as well as information regarding what GTPD is doing to keep the campus community safe.

“Brochure is a great resource, in that it highlights the ways that we — and our partners on and off campus — are addressing safety at Georgia Tech,” said Deputy Chief of Police Rob Connolly. “Maintaining a safe campus is a team effort, and this publication helps us keep the lines of communication open with the campus community.”

This brochure was prepared with help from local law enforcement agencies, the Office of Student Integrity, the Women’s Resource Center, Housing and Residence Life. Each group provides updated information regarding their educational efforts and programs.

Annual information from 2009 to 2011 about the number of crimes such as sex offenses, burglaries, motor vehicle theft and robberies is included in the statistics. The numbers are broken down to show the number of crimes that were committed off
France-Atlanta Events Begin Oct. 25

SANDY SONG
GEORGIA TECH-LORRAINE

This fall, members of the Tech community will have an opportunity to learn more about French culture — without having to spring for a trip across the Atlantic.

Oct. 25 through Nov. 10, the Consulate General of France in Atlanta and Georgia Tech will jointly host “France-Atlanta 2012: Towards Innovation,” which will feature 13 events that highlight scientific, business, cultural and humanitarian efforts. This is the third consecutive year that the program is being offered.

“It is tremendously gratifying to see how France-Atlanta has stimulated dialogue, idea exchange and collaborative actions between France and the United States,” said Denis Barbet, the new Consul General of France. “I look forward to another successful event.”

SAFETY, continued from page 1

In the fall, events will be held on campus, in on-campus residential areas or on public property.

One thing to note is that although the figures in the brochure indicate that robberies (taking or attempting to take anything of value from a person by putting the victim in fear) have increased from 10 in 2009 to 13 in 2011, that number has been decreasing in 2012.

Two robberies were reported between January and September of this year, compared to seven reported over the same period in 2011,” said Randy Ory, crime analyst for GTPD.

For more information about the statistics featured in the brochure or the Institute’s most recent crime numbers, visit www.police.gatech.edu.

To read the full Safety Report, visit www.police.gatech.edu/documents/brochure.pdf

CAMPAIGN, continued from page 1

Humanity International: “I think it’s important to help take care of those in our community who need assistance — it’s an important part of community to act like we’re in this together,” said Ron Bohlander, a principal research scientist in the Information Technology Institute. “I give to organizations including Georgia Tech, United Way and my church, and I am personally involved with or connected to most of the organizations I give to.”

Faculty and staff are encouraged 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 will also be 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 will be accepted at Tech’s Bursar’s Office.

For more information about the campaign, visit www.charitable.gatech.edu

Tech Implements Payment Plan for Tuition, Mandatory Fees

INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

In an ongoing effort to help students and their families manage the cost of education, Georgia Tech has implemented a plan that allows for payment of tuition and mandatory fees in three separate installments.

“Especially in today’s economy, we are mindful of the students and families in our community who are facing challenges, and we will continue doing everything we can to assist them,” said President G. P. “Bud” Peterson. “We are hopeful that services such as this payments installment plan will be useful tools to ensure that limited resources do not prevent qualified and capable students from earning a Georgia Tech degree.”

Close to 400 students participated in the plan this fall, with each student deferring an average amount of about $4,212.

By spreading payments out in installments, this service provided our students greater flexibility to help mitigate the financial impact of tuition,” Bursar Carol Payne added.

Enrolling in the payment plan allows students to defer up to 30 percent of their current term tuition and mandatory fee balance remaining after the application of any expected financial aid.

Of the remaining balance, half is due approximately 30 days after classes begin, and the remaining amount is due approximately 60 days into the term. All elective charges — housing, parking and meal plans — must be paid by the standard fee payment deadline.

While the plan is intended to be a convenience, it is not a free service. Students who elect to participate must pay an enrollment fee of $75, which will help offset administrative costs. Those who do not meet the scheduled payments risk penalty fees and/or academic withdrawal from the Institute.

The plan will be available for spring term. The final fee payment deadline to avoid class cancellation and sign up for the payment plan is Jan. 14.

For more information, email bursar.asl@business.gatech.edu.

www.bursar.gatech.edu

What Would You Like to Read About?
Have an idea for an article? Suggestions are always welcome. Send it to editor@comm.gatech.edu.

Archive issues of The Whistle can be accessed at www.whistle.gatech.edu.

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Georgia Tech is a unit of the University System of Georgia.
The 2013 Benefits Breakdown

What’s Changing

Medical
• Employees can once again enroll in the previously frozen Blue Cross Blue Shield and Kaiser HMO plans.
• HMO copays for specialist visits, hospital inpatient and outpatient services, and emergency room services will increase.
• Medical plan premiums will increase anywhere from less than 1 percent to 8.5 percent.

Dental
• The MetLife dental plan annual maximum benefit will increase from $1,200 to $1,300 per covered person. Composite fillings will now be covered.
• The two existing Humana dental plans will be replaced with two new plans through Delta Dental, which will provide broader network access. A new PPO plan will be offered at the same premium as the current PPO plan, while the HMO plan will be offered at a lower premium than the existing Humana Access plan. Employees enrolled in the Humana plans will automatically be enrolled in the respective Delta Dental plan, unless they indicate otherwise.

Supplemental Insurance
• The UNUM and CIGNA supplemental life insurance premiums have decreased.
• Expanded spouse life insurance options are now available through CIGNA.
• The CIGNA employee supplemental life insurance maximum is increasing.

What’s Not Changing

Dental
• Premiums for the MetLife dental plan will remain the same.
• Vision
• Providers, plan designs and premiums will remain the same.

Supplemental Insurance
• A variety of optional life, critical illness, whole life and other supplemental insurances will continue to be offered.

Other Benefits
• A voluntary group legal plan will now be offered through ARAG. The plan offers 100 percent, paid-in-full, network attorney fees for many covered legal matters including family law, wills and estate planning and debt-related matters.

Visit the Office of Human Resources’ open enrollment website for more details about 2013 benefit options.

www.ohr.gatech.edu/openenrollment

Think Pink: Are Annual Mammograms Necessary?

AMELIA PAVLIK
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Mammograms are the only reliable tool for detecting breast cancer at the early and most treatable stages—unfortunately, the results aren’t always accurate.

“Mammograms have a high false-positive rate,” said Turgay Ayer, an assistant professor in the School of Industrial and Systems Engineering. “These rates are generally 10 percent in the U.S. population,” he said. Ayer and his research team discovered that mammogram frequency should be tailored to the individual based on personal risk characteristics such as age, family history and prior screening history.

Prior screening history plays a key role in how frequently women need to receive mammograms,” Ayer said. “For example, if a woman had 10 consecutive negative mammograms in the past, this research suggests that maybe she should consider expanding her screening intervals to every two years.” Ayer’s future research plans include looking into using a 3-D mammography-based technology known as “breast tomosynthesis” to diagnose breast cancer.

This is the second in a series of articles highlighting Georgia Tech’s role in the fight against breast cancer.

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Jenkins Built Career Around Love for Sports

AMELIA PAYLICK
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

The old adage is to find something you love to do, and then find a way to make money doing it. When it comes to Dru Jenkins’s career, he’s managed to do just that.

“I’ve always loved sports and played soccer and basketball and run track,” said Jenkins, intramural coordinator at the Campus Recreation Center (CRC). “I feel so fortunate to have a job that allows me to make a job out of a hobby — and that allows me to share my interest with our students.”

While in college at James Madison University in Virginia, Jenkins majored in sports management and took a job refereeing for intramural basketball teams on campus. After graduation, he transitioned into a sports administration master’s program at Georgia State University, which is when Jenkins began working in the CRC as a graduate assistant.

“Five years ago, it was time to find a job, and I applied to places all over the country,” he added. “But I ended up accepting the position I’m in right now, and the rest is history.”

Read on to learn more about Jenkins and his time at Tech.

Tell us about your job.

I oversee 43 student officials (who referee intramurals sports) and 17 student supervisors. I’m responsible for scheduling them, their payroll and training. In addition, I also develop game schedules for the 17 intramural sports we offer, which includes anywhere from 200 to 325 teams (depending on the time of year) and about 13,000 to 14,000 participants. I end each day spending about one to two hours each night at the games, working with our student employees and hearing feedback from the students who participate on the teams.

What is one misconception people have about your job?

I think a lot of people think that I just schedule games. But a large part of my job is helping our students to develop as leaders. Our unit has learning outcomes in place for students, just as there are learning outcomes in place for academic classes. I spend a lot of face-to-face time with our student officials and supervisors, providing both positive feedback and thoughts on how they can do their jobs better.

What is the most satisfying part of your job?

I love working with the students. And it’s always nice to hear that what I’m doing makes a difference. For example, I recently had a student write to tell me how his experience as an official helped him to become a better speaker and be more organized.

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

My iPhone. I realize how much I miss it whenever I don’t have cell service.

What is the biggest risk you ever took?

I recently got engaged. I had a feeling that my fiancé’s response would be “yes,” but it was a pretty nerve-wracking moment.

What is the best advice you’ve ever received?

Always think before you speak. This is especially important in the world of intramurals sports where a lot of reactions are knee-jerk.

Where is your favorite place to have lunch?

It’s probably the Student Center Food Court where I eat at least once a week. I’m a big fan of the gyro wrap.

Tell us something that others might not know about you.

This summer, I went on a five-day, 53-mile backpacking trip in the Colorado Rocky Mountains. I was with a group of friends, and we’d wake up at 5:30 a.m., hike all day and then go to sleep around 9 p.m. It was an amazing experience that I’m proud to have made it through.

‘Dialogues’ Spark Discussions about Diversity

INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Events such as the Diversity Roundtable and Diversity Symposium bring people together across Georgia Tech and spark discussion about diversity and inclusive excellence on campus — but how can you get meaningful discussions going within your department?

Cheryl Cofield
director of the Culture, Diversity and Inclusion Unit in the Office of Human Resources (OHR), has just the solution — dialogues her team facilitates that are designed to foster authentic discussions at the unit level.

“To ensure we are distinguished by not only academic excellence, but by truth pursued, it is important that the Institute champion civility of discourse as a fundamental cornerstone. We need widespread, high-quality dialogue to generate shared understandings,” Cofield said. “Through dialogue, we can explore new ideas and alternative perspectives that make us more well-rounded and humane. As we transform ourselves, we transform our relationships and improve the condition of our collective culture.”

Since 2011, Cofield and her colleagues have facilitated dialogues for units including the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts, Scheller College of Business, Office of Information Technology, Georgia Tech Research Institute and OMER.

Cofield and Pearl Alexander, senior director of People Strategies in OHR, are also scheduled to facilitate dialogues for new school chairs in the College of Engineering, as well as groups from the Library and the Learning Excellence Administrative Council.

The two plan to become certified in Stephen Covey’s “Leadership at the Speed of Trust” model this month so they can also begin facilitating dialogues focused on leveraging credibility and high-trust behavior as critical leadership competencies.

Dialogues can be tailored to suit the needs of individual departments and a few of the topics offered include:

- Leadership Conversations: Developing Managerial Capacity for Inclusive Excellence Through Dialogue: This two-hour dialogue teaches participants effective ways to foster engagement among diverse teams and individuals, and how to create safe spaces for discussing sensitive issues, which often go unaddressed.
- A Singer Named … Susan: This two-hour dialogue uses video footage of Susan Boyle from the television program “Britain’s Got Talent” to generate insight about unconscious bias, the impact of perceptions on feelings, thoughts and behaviors, and our collective responsibilities in relation to the work environment.
- Micro Messages, Inequities and Triggers: During this two- to three-hour dialogue, participants learn how we send hundreds of unconscious messages, often without saying a word, as well as the power and impact of slights that often take the form of subtle looks, gestures or voice tones and other unintentional acts.
- “We’re hoping to create a culture of dialogue one unit at a time, one person at a time,” Cofield said.

For more information about dialogue topics or to invite Cofield to facilitate a dialogue in your department, email her at cheryl.cofield@ohr.gatech.edu.

http://ohr.gatech.edu


Looking for handicap accessible apartment or small house in Atlanta to rent. Cousin was in diving accident and in wheelchair but doesn’t want to move back home. Wants to stay at home. Email lchew@wastealabama.com or call 404-436-0883.

MISCELLNEOUS

Thomasville bookcase, twin bed and trunk and storage drawers for sale. Great condition. Bed measures 42.5 in. wide by 90 in. long. Bookcase is 12 in. deep. Two large storage drawers underneath measure 37 in. wide by 59 in. long by 5 in. deep. $275. Email mgsb48@gmail.com.

Santa Cruz Superlight Mountain Bike. Blue, medium. Rock Shox SID 100, suspension works great, no leaks. XTR V-Brakes, XT Cranks, XT Cassette. Great shape, some superficial scratches from time to time. $970. Email coccaque@gmail.com.

Adopt a tame and abandoned GT kitten or cat. All are spayed/neutered with some shots. Free adoption for GT employees, students and friends. Includes rabies and health certificate or email Marilyn Smith at marilyn.smith@gti.gatech.edu.

Leomond Poprail Cottcyclus bicyle, 57-cm. frame, Shimano 105 compi- nents, excellent condition, $700. Redden exclusively on-road. Includes clipless pedals, computer and spare stem. Email daniel.a.cook@gmail.com.

Old Town 147 canoe, like new. Includes car and carrier, two extra paddles with backs, two paddles and mount for elec- tric motor. Call Joe at 404-849-1193.

Queen-size, pillow-top Stearns and Foster mattress and box spring for sale; both are approximately 2.5 years old. Delivery is possible for an additional fee if buyer is inside the perimeter. Make an offer at rfiney@gmail.com.

Kettle Cobb Elliptical Cross- Trainer with training computer. High quality, sturdy design for smooth and stable performance. Scarcely used. Original price: $1,400; asking price: $700. Floor protective mat included. Email nancy@gti.gatech.edu.

German shepherd puppies. Black and tan/white available. OKC registered. Call or text 706-410-5883 for more info and pictures.

Beautifull sofa, loveseat and double ottoman for sale. One owner, great condition. Neutral fabric with no tears and no stains. Price: $800. Email angelicastrong@kentuckyphotography. gatech.edu for photographs.

55 silver/grey washes for sale. $0.70 each. Designer, private label, ivory white wedding green size 18, pics available, will deliver. $1,000. Contact annette.gaddis@gti.gatech.edu or 404-407-6445.

Dark green leather couch and loveseat for sale. One owner, great condition. $500 for both OBO. Email angela.hayes@ yahoo.com for more info and photos.

Ads run for at least three issues in the order in which they are received. Submit your 35-word-or-less ad to editor@comm.gatech.edu.