Institute Websites to Become ‘Responsive’

INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

In 2014, more than 7.3 billion smartphones, tablets, and other mobile devices will outnumber the world’s population.

To meet this growing need, which was identified in the Cisco Visual Networking Index Global Mobile Data Traffic Forecast for 2011 to 2016, Georgia Tech is making responsive design a key component of its website makeover, which will begin to be rolled out this month.

“Responsive design allows websites to display clearly on any digital device, making sure that menu items and links are accessible and that text and images are legible and collapse elegantly to the screen size of the device on which they are being viewed,” said Dave Holston, senior director of creative strategy and brand management for Institute Communications.

Along with the responsive framework, the site will also have several new features including streamlined navigation, an improved search function, a new campus calendar, and an updated theme.

Many of the updates to the site are based on feedback from students, faculty, staff, and parents who reviewed early prototypes and participated in user testing during the design stages.

“Visitors to the redesigned site will notice a bolder use of imagery, graphics, and video, as well as a renewed focus on storytelling as a way of communicating the Institute’s impact.”

“We need to show, as much as we need to tell the Georgia Tech story,” Holston said. “Our audiences need to be able to see our work, our people, and see how education and research impacts their lives.”

The new Web presence will be rolled out over the course of the 2013-14 academic year. Phase one will include a redesigned

WEBSTES, continued on page 2

Be Prepared for Open Records Requests

AMELIA PAVLIK INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

If you received a call requesting a faculty member’s employment records or other sensitive — but public — information, what would you do?

“When you receive an Open Records Act request like this, just email us, and we’ll walk you through the process,” said Gary Wolovick, a managing attorney in the Office of Legal Affairs.

“Sometimes gathering the information can be a pain, but it shouldn’t be a scary process.”

As a state university, Georgia Tech must comply with Georgia’s Open Records Act (ORA), which states that people may request and obtain copies for a fee.

Here is some information you need to know about these requests.

Q: How many ORA requests does Tech receive monthly?
A: An average of 22. Lawyers often use various public records to build their cases, and reporters use public records to tell the Georgia Tech story,” Holston said. “Our audiences need to be able to see our work, our people, and see how education and research impacts their lives.”

The new Web presence will be rolled out over the course of the 2013-14 academic year. Phase one will include a redesigned

WEBSTES, continued on page 2

Researchers Reveal Apple iOS Security Weaknesses

COLLEGE OF COMPUTING

No device is immune to security threats — not even those made by Apple.

Researchers from the Georgia Tech Information Security Center (GTISC) have discovered two security weaknesses that permit installation of malware onto Apple mobile devices using seemingly innocuous applications and peripherals.

“Apple utilizes a mandatory app review process to ensure that only approved apps can run on iOS devices, which allows users to feel safe when using any iOS app,” said GTISC Associate Director Paul Royal, also a research scientist in the College of Computing. “However,
IRI Intros: 3 Questions with David McDowell

You probably have heard that Georgia Tech has Interdisciplinary Research Institutes (IRIs) — but do you know much about them?

This article is part of a series to introduce the IRIs and their directors. In this issue, Executive Director David McDowell answers questions about the Institute for Materials (IMat).

What is the impact of materials research?

Many of the technological advances that have transformed our world over the past 20 years have been founded on the developments of materials research. The benefits of these advances are evident in many of the products and technologies that have become so much a part of our everyday lives: the computers and phones we can’t live without; lifesaving medical technology; and much more.

Materials research is focused both on discovering new materials as well as understanding how existing materials behave in new and enhanced products. Improved understanding enables us to better leverage the capabilities of known materials to make them safer, more convenient, efficient, cost-effective, and sustainable.

How is Tech helping to advance materials research?

Accelerating the rate of discovery and development of new and improved materials requires unprecedented levels of coordination among materials processing and synthesis, characterization, experimental methods for structure-property relations, computational materials science, physics and chemistry, design and information, and data sciences.

IMat launched in June 2013 to foster the collaborative interdisciplinary linkages necessary to achieve this level of coordination. This includes developing the partnerships with national labs, industry, and other academic institutions that are essential for success in today’s large-scale materials research and development environment. Operating as an IRI, IMat supports and connects materials-related research across all colleges and academic units at Tech, as well as at the Georgia Tech Research Institute, while fostering a network of industry, government, and academic research laboratories across the nation. IMat will also serve as an Institute-wide bridge organization that will connect materials research with important application domains such as energy, manufacturing, bioengineering and biosciences, and nanotechnology.

How is IMat furthering Tech’s education mission?

IMat was designed with the vision of engaging a broader community in the materials discovery and development process. Connecting distinguished faculty, renowned research centers, and state-of-the-art laboratories and facilities across Tech, IMat emphasizes an integrated, multidisciplinary approach to problem solving. One way IMat will engage the materials community is through the development of exploratory Web-based collaboration tools for materials.

IMat will host a series of workshops for students and faculty throughout the year, as well as selected workshops that will engage industry, national laboratories, and other universities in high-opportunity areas of large-scale, collaborative research. In addition, as a southeastern ambassador for the Obama administration’s Materials Genome Initiative (MGI), IMat will host MGI-related workshops in the coming academic year that will bring together academia, industry, and government.

The Q&A, in its entirety, is available at http://c.gatech.edu/163hIYZ

Events continued on page 3
School Supply Drive Success Thanks to Tech Community

Thanks to the generosity of Georgia Tech faculty and staff members during the Office of Human Resources’ Buzzin’ Back to School Drive, volunteers were able to fill 360 backpacks for 186 Tech families. Packs were filled with a variety of supplies for children in grades K-12.

APPLES, continued from page 1

We have discovered two weaknesses that allow circumvention of Apple’s security measures.

Using different approaches, research scientists Tielei Wang and Billy Lau learned that malware can be installed onto iOS devices via Trojan Horse-style applications and peripherals. Wang’s approach hides malicious code that would otherwise get rejected during the Apple review process. Once the malicious app passes review and is installed on a user’s device, it can be instructed to carry out malicious tasks.

Wang’s team developed a proof-of-concept attack, called “Jekyll,” which rearranges its own code to create new functionality that is not exhibited during Apple’s approval process. This allows the malicious aspects of the app to remain undetected when reviewed and obtain Apple’s approval. Lau’s approach involved investigating the extent to which security threats were considered when performing everyday activities such as charging a device.

Both Wang and Lau’s teams notified Apple upon the discovery of these security weaknesses. Following GTISC’s disclosure of Macants, Apple implemented a feature in iOS 7 that notifies users when they plug their mobile device into any peripheral that attempts to establish a data connection. Apple has indicated that it is continuing to work on ways to address the weaknesses.

www.gtisc.gatech.edu

FOR AUGUST 29

President G.P. “Bud” Peterson will deliver his 2013 Institute Address at 11 a.m. in Room 152, Clough Commons. During the address, Peterson will highlight recent Institute achievements, discuss his vision and goals for the upcoming academic year, as well as answer audience questions.

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

BILLY LAU

Automobiles

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www.gtisc.gatech.edu

CLASSIFIEDS

Ford Focus ZECS hatchback 2001, 90,000 miles. Well-maintained, good condition, fun to drive, smoke and pet free, and clean title. Manual, five-speed, radio/CD. $3,750 OBO. Contact 404-423-2742 or ksornt011@gmail.com.

2004 Ford F-150 (full cab), all the options, 74,000 miles, new tires, very good condition. $9,500. Call Jeff at 404-694-2742.

2007 Prius, 79,000 miles. Excellent condition, smoke and pet free. Clean title. Backup camera, Bluetooth connection, and radio/CD/iPhone music system. Very fuel efficient. $13,000 OBO. Contact 404-594-4466 or glabritty@gmail.com.

2001 Honda CR-V EX AWD, 140,000 miles, very good condition, clean maintenance record, new tires, forest green, CD player: $5,200. Call Paul at 404-217-5290.

REAL ESTATE/ROOMMATES


Classifieds continued on page 4
No Lack of Diversity in Hofman’s Job

AMELIA PAVLIK
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

There’s always a plan A — and a plan B.

This is one of Najah Hofman’s guiding principles when it comes to event planning. “It’s the challenge of events — things are forever changing,” said Hofman, marketing and event coordinator for the Office of Institute Diversity. “So, for example, when Martin Luther King III spoke on campus last January, and his wife and daughter arrived at the last minute — and it was their wedding anniversary — things didn’t fall apart because I was able to adapt and adjust.”

“I think a lot of people associate diversity with race. But we’re here to serve everyone on campus.”

So how did you arrive at Tech?

After graduating from Spelman College, I did some event consulting work for Coca-Cola. About seven years ago, I made the decision to go full-time employee, planning events and assisting with various administrative tasks for the Office of Academic Diversity. That position is what led to my current job in the Office of Institute Diversity.

Tell us about an average day in your job.

I have an ongoing to-do list that is broken down into three areas: events, administrative projects, and Web development. (I manage the office’s main website and four other diversity-related sites such as those for OMED and the ADVANCE Program.) Every morning, I check to make sure that the websites are functioning and are updated. Then, if there’s an event occurring in the near future, that occupies most of my time for the day. If not, I stay busy with all of the other tasks on my plate.

What are a few things you’d like people to know about your job?

Taking on the Web development tasks was completely out of my comfort zone. I was clueless. But I’ve really enjoyed the challenge. I’d also like to encourage everyone to use the resources that the Office of Institute Diversity offers. I think a lot of people associate diversity with race. But we’re here to serve everyone on campus, regardless of age, race, gender, job title, etc. We’re all about creating a culture of inclusive excellence.

What piece of technology could you not live without?

My iPhone 5. It’s amazing how it keeps me connected to everything I need work-wise and personally.

Where is your favorite spot on campus?

I love sitting on the patio of the new Highland Bakery. It’s just so welcoming.

Where is your favorite place to eat lunch?

Bennihana offers a half-price lunch menu. I’m a fan of the chicken and shrimp hibachi.

Najah Hofman

What do you like to do in your free time?

I like to sew. When I was little, my grandmother and I would work on simple projects. A few years ago, I took my aunt’s old sewing machine. Now I am always taking in hems or adding details to a piece of vintage clothing. Whenever I buy a new piece of clothing, I always think, ‘What can I do to make this better?’

What’s the best advice you’ve ever received?

It was something Joel Osteen said on an Oprah special: “Anything is possible if you have the faith to believe it.”

Tell us something about yourself that most people wouldn’t know.

I got to participate in President Bill Clinton’s first inauguration. My mother was assisting with the event, and the organizers needed a child to hold hands with Clinton and Al Gore as they walked to the ceremony. I can’t believe they picked me! It was such an amazing experience to be 10 years old and meeting the new president.

Bioengineering’s Ruffin Dies at 48

PARKER H. PETIT INSTITUTE FOR BIOENGINEERING AND BIOSCIENCE

Christopher James Ruffin, 48, academic advisor for the Interdisciplinary Bioengineering Graduate Program, died on July 20.

“Chris was the go-to person throughout the four years that I knew him,” said Timothy Kasas, a Mechanical Engineering graduate student who is in the program. “My interactions with him from day one of the program gave me a sense of belonging.”

Ruffin began working at Georgia Tech in 1994 and started working in the bio-community in 2001 in the Biomedical Engineering department. His focus was always on ensuring that Bioengineering graduate students and faculty were taken care of.

“No task was too big or too small — he got them all done, professionally and with a smile,” said Rob Butera, professor in Electrical and Computer Engineering and former program director.

Ruffin’s funeral was held on July 26 at True Light Baptist Church in Atlanta.

Classifieds

Beautiful SBRV3/3.5BA, 4,200 sq. ft. house for rent in a swim/tennis community. 20 min. to Tech, 5 min. to Silver Comet Trail. Large private backyard, lake view, basement, sunroom, and covered deck. Email rishna@gatech.edu or call 404-291-5785.

2BR/2BA condo for sale just off Howell Mill Road. Great for couple who wants to live close to Georgia Tech. Gated with off-street parking. Available now. BS/4K discount for Tech employees/institutes/agents. Email carol@kennonem.net.

Hilton Head timeshare available Aug. 30 to Sept. 6. 2 BR/2BA condo on the beach at the Marriott Islander Oceanfront Resort. $1,400 for the week. 50 percent deposit to reserve. Call Bob at 770-970-6179.

2BR/1BA bungalow for rent. Minutes to Tech, 5 min. to removable/ surgicent/ent (W/ Allantia), HIH floors, newly renovated, central HVAC, gas stove, refrigerator, alarm system, large deck in fenced back yard, W/D, pets OK, $795/mo. Contact suzanne.brock@gatech.edu.

Homeowner looking for graduate student to rent in fully furnished house in Berkeley Park, less than three miles from Tech. All utilities included and washer and car. $650/mo. Call 404-274-5091.

Lovely 1,050 sq. ft. 2BR/1BA garden apartment with fenced yard in Highland Park for rent. Off-street parking. Walking distance to Piedmont Park and the High Museum. 10-minute drive to Tech. $1,400/mo. Email l3theprod@...com.

Miscellaneous

Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer illuminated village set of four buildings and miniature characters from an animation film. Made by Hawthorne Village. $75 for set. Email kapallin@gmail.com for photos.

Sleeper couch/lofa bed, IKEA EKTORP cover, wildlife covers into full-size bed. Bought new a year ago. $399 (price new $799). Email pss3@mail.gatech.edu or call 678-462-6367.

Moving sale: 2-year-old IKEA queen-size mattress in good condition, $100. Rarely used stand-up mixer, $30. Old, but still working juicer, $45. Other miscellaneous items like wireless router, DIL modern, PC speakers, webcam, and PC keyboard. Email jorjor268@yahoo.com.

The Work Experience Lab at Georgia Tech is seeking volunteers for research on daily work experiences. Participants can receive up to $100 for participation. Email WorkExperienceResearch@psych.gatech.edu or call 404-385-1954 for more information.


Orion Skyquest XT6 Dobsonian Reflector Telescope with stand and case. Asking $350. Pretty six-drawer wood vanity and mirror, $75. Photo on request. Contact 404-692-7832 or coo70@gatech.edu.

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Quarterly Clery Alert Update

Knowledge is power when it comes to not being a victim of a crime. This map shows where crimes that mentled a Clery Alert (distributed to warn about crimes that represent threats to the campus community) occurred between April 1 and June 30.

http://police.gatech.edu