**President Invites Community to 2013 Address**

Mark your calendars now to make sure you don’t miss President G.P. “Bud” Peterson’s annual update to the campus community on Thursday, Aug. 29.

The event will begin at 11 a.m. in Clough Commons, Room 152, and is open to faculty, staff, and students. (Additional overflow room space will be available.)

The annual Institute Address is part of Peterson’s ongoing commitment to continuous communication with the Georgia Tech community. In addition to the annual Institute Address, each spring, he publishes an online President’s Update. Throughout the year, Peterson also holds town halls and other meetings to keep faculty, staff, and students apprised of all that is happening.

This year marks Peterson’s fifth such address, and the fourth since the 2010 launch of Tech’s 25-year strategic plan.

“We purposefully set the time frame 25 years out so that we would give our community the opportunity to think expansively,” he said. “When we first came together as a campus community in 2009 to begin the planning process, we were in the midst of an economic recession. We had to ensure that we didn’t dismiss big ideas just because of a concern about resources. The mindset was, ‘We can do anything in 25 years.’”

Peterson said that while the Tech community did a good job of developing a very comprehensive and forward-looking plan, it must be continuously refined.

“While we had some very smart people working on Tech’s strategic plan, nobody predicted the amazing rapidity with which technology-assisted instruction would be adopted, things like massive open online courses and our new Online Master of...”

**Office of Diversity Provides Climate Assessment Update**

Last winter, 6,672 faculty, staff, and students responded to the Office of Diversity’s climate assessment survey. But what happened since?

“We are actually in the final stages of completing the report that we hope to share with campus early this fall,” said Vice President for Institute Diversity Archie Ervin. “We were so pleased to get the response rates that we did and are eager to use the information gleaned from this survey to start a dialogue with the campus community about our next steps.”

The report is the culmination of more than two years of planning and effort, which began in July 2011, a few months after Ervin arrived as Tech. With support from Georgia Tech’s leadership, Ervin and Jonathan Gordon, director of...”

**GTPD Partnerships Benefit Campus, Beyond**

When the Atlanta Police Department (APD) needed help with surveillance during the Peachtree Road Race, it turned to the Georgia Tech Police Department (GTPD).

“They asked to use the department’s SkyCop mobile surveillance unit — and we were honored to contribute to public safety at such a high-profile event,” said GTPD’s Deputy Chief of Police Rob Connolly. “But this was really just another everyday example of the solid relationships the GTPD has established with neighboring law enforcement agencies.”

Over the past year, there have been several examples of the success of these partnerships with groups including APD and Midtown Blue, the public safety force for the Midtown community.

In March, a drug deal gone had led...”
Regulars Approve Health Care Changes

During its monthly meeting Aug. 13-14, the Board of Regents (BOR) approved health care plan changes for 2014.

Premiers will not increase for the University System of Georgia’s (USG) Blue Cross Blue Shield plans, some co-pays and deductibles will increase as of Jan. 1. (A complete list of what was approved is available in the meeting agenda at http://c.gatech.edu/1420Tvc.) At this point, final benefits decisions have only been made on the medical plans.

Science in Computer Science,” he said. “We’re challenging at this point is to continue to make progress and ensure that we view the plan as a living document, adjusting and modifying it to accommodate the changing circumstances and technologies.”

In his Institute Address, Peterson will comment on trends and changing expectations in higher education, provide an update on strategic plan progress, and talk about specific goals for the upcoming year. He will also address the national educational landscape, the impact of sequestration, and the need for new sources of revenue.

Additionally, Peterson will cover major accomplishments; Tech’s commitment to innovation; opportunities for students; partnerships with business, industry, and the community; Tech’s global focus; and Campaign Georgia Tech.

“We’re experiencing a time of tremendous positive momentum here at Georgia Tech,” Peterson said. “It can be seen in the expansion of our facilities and infrastructure, the growth in size and national visibility of our faculty and staff, in our global reach and partnerships, and in the incredible things that students are able to accomplish, even before they graduate. As we enter this new academic year, we have great expectations.”

Following Peterson’s address, participants will have an opportunity to make comments and ask questions.

Office of Assessment, assembled the Climate for BOR Assessment Task Force, which was charged with developing the survey in spring of 2012. (Julie Ancis, associate vice president for Institute Diversity, joined the task force leadership in the fall of 2012.) The provost asked us to develop a tool that would help measure and assess Tech’s progress in terms of achieving diversity, equity, and inclusion, all elements of the strategic plan,” Ervin said. “This is the first climate survey conducted at Tech that assesses perceptions of people across campus as they relate to Tech as a community that values collegiality, collaboration, intercultural respect, and thoughtful interaction.”

The task force worked for 2012 to identify the issues that the three surveys (one for faculty, staff, and students) should explore.

“arrest: A new BOR strategic plan for 2013-2018 was adopted. The plan represents USG priorities and special initiatives in the areas of degree completion, academic excellence, economic development, research and innovation, and efficiencies. (More information about the plan can be found at http://c.gatech.edu/16NnJFv.) Tech was designated the state’s technological research institution.

• Modifications to the Bachelor of Science in Architecture program requirements were approved to strengthen design computing knowledge requirements.

• Changes to the Master of Science in Architecture program were approved to better align the degree with requirements from the National Architecture Accreditation Board.

• Changes were approved to the Bachelor of Science in Industrial Design program to reflect the new integrative role of designers and to support collaboration with industry.

• The Catherine M. and James E. Allchin Early Career Professorship in the College of Computing was established.

• The Fouts Family Chair in the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering was established.

www.usg.edu/regents

DIVERSITY continued from page 1

The Georgia Tech Office of Human Resources will communicate more details about all other benefits and open enrollment for 2014 in the months to come.

The BOR also approved construction projects including Cherry Street streetscape improvements and utility expansion and the renovation of Boggs Chemistry Building. A new BOR strategic plan for 2013-2018 was adopted. The plan represents USG priorities and special initiatives in the areas of degree completion, academic excellence, economic development, research and innovation, and efficiencies. (More information about the plan can be found at http://c.gatech.edu/16NnJFv.) Tech was designated the state’s technological research institution.

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GTTPD is currently working on another initiative that will extend its crime fighting powers beyond campus — an exterior camera project. Currently, all of GTTPD’s cameras are fixed on campus buildings.

When the first phase of the camera project is complete in two months, 15 cameras will keep a virtual eye on all of the entry roads into campus, supporting APD and Midtown Blue’s camera networks. At the end of the second phase, which will likely be complete in about six months, 25 cameras will help protect Tech’s periphery.

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Arts@Tech Brings Engineered Art to Campus

VICTOR ROGERS
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Last week, three final works of the 15-piece outdoor sculptures exhibit were installed on the Georgia Tech campus.

Internationally acclaimed, Chattanooga-based sculptor John Henry is the curator for the exhibition. His work, “La Tour,” the 50-foot tall steel piece located on the Instructional Center lawn near Boggs Chemistry Building, is also included in the exhibit.

The Whistle recently spoke with Henry about his approach to sculpting. Here are his thoughts:

“My general philosophy about sculpture is, in the words of Herman Rasch who was a native sculptor from northern Wisconsin, ‘I just like to make things. I’m a builder.’ And that’s really what I am… a builder.

I came from a line of builders. I had a great uncle who went around the country building barns for people. My grandfather built things and tilled the soil. My father built homes and developed land, and he also made furniture.

Then I came along and upset the apple cart a little bit because nothing I make anybody really needs! There’s a whole different philosophy about that because some people think they need it a lot. I’m very thankful for those people.

Sculpture is about building things for the environment in which you live. I think sculptors need to understand their environment. They need to understand the society in which they live.

It’s important that I make things that have a certain connection with architecture and the man-made environment we live in, like this campus, which is a very good example.

I’m not too interested in what is called ‘site-specific sculpture’ because sites change. You can create something incredibly specific for a specific place. Chances are, 20 years from now, that site will change. It will have a different use. And, if your piece is too specific, it doesn’t mean anything anymore.

I think it’s very important to make things that can change with time, can have new meanings, and can take on other meanings that you haven’t even thought about now. That’s my philosophy about sculpture.”

“Engineered Art” is part of Arts@Tech, an initiative to enhance the Tech community by fostering programs and events spanning the arts spectrum at the intersection of technological innovation and creative expression. Arts@Tech is an outcome of the Institute’s strategic plan.

arts.gatech.edu

Save the Date...

Arts@Tech presents a lecture by sculptor John Henry, the curator for “Engineered Art,” on Friday, Sept. 20, from 2:30 to 3:15 p.m., in the Reinhart-Pierce Family Auditorium of the College of Architecture. The lecture is free and open to all.
Imagine that you’re on the field at Yankee Stadium.

The smell of freshly mown grass surrounds you. You hear the smack of baseballs hitting well-worn leather gloves, fielded by the likes of Tech alumnus Mark Teixeira during warm-ups. Welcome to one of Stacy Braukman’s most memorable moments working for the Office of Development.

“We were there to interview Teixeira for the Campaign Georgia Tech launch video in 2010 — I still have the press pass,” said Braukman, Campaign writer and editor. “At one point, I was standing less than five feet away from baseball superstar Mariano Rivera. The whole experience was mind-blowing.”

Although every day isn’t filled with opportunities to meet greats, Braukman does get the chance of a lifetime to help make Tech a better place.

“My challenge is to capture the essence of what makes those people tick — to really do justice to their stories.”

What professional accomplishment are you most proud of?

Writing my own book and getting it published. In 2012, Communists and Perverts under the Palms: The Johns Committee in Florida came out to warm reviews and received the Rembert W. Patrick Award from the Florida Historical Society for the best scholarly book on a Florida history topic.

The book was based on my dissertation from the 1990s and was a long time in the making. I will be giving a talk and signing books at the Decatur Book Festival on Sept. 1, which I am very much about.

What piece of technology could you not live without professionally and personally?

My LG flip phone.

What is your favorite spot on campus?

My favorite spot is the place where Sideways the dog is buried. I love that Tech has set aside a beautiful little patch of ground for her, and a headstone, in the shadow of Tech Tower.

What is your favorite place to have lunch, and what do you order?

My favorite lunch spot is the Highlander in Midtown. I order the patty melt (with a veggie burger instead of hamburges) with fries.

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

“Take yourself seriously. If you don’t, no one else will. That was from my graduate advisor, and she was right.”

If you could have dinner with one person, dead or alive, who would it be and why?

Abraham Lincoln. I became mildly obsessed with him sometime in elementary school, and that hasn’t really dissipated over the years. The juxtaposition of his humble beginnings, quiet awkwardness, and staggering greatness (plus, it doesn’t hurt to be on the right side of history) is irresistibly intriguing to me.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I enjoy reading, walking my dogs, and watching sports. I’m trying to become a better cook. The jury’s still out on that one.

Stacy Braukman, Campaign writer and editor. “At one point, I was standing less than five feet away from baseball superstar Mariano Rivera. The whole experience was mind-blowing.”

Recently The Whistle had an opportunity to learn more about Braukman and her time at Tech. What did you want to be as a child?

I always wanted to be a veterinarian, but I have a terrible cat allergy. I don’t think I gave it a lot of thought again until middle school, at which point I knew I wanted to be a drummer in an all-girl band. The Go-Go’s were very influential during my adolescence.

What made you decide to work at Tech?

After I earned a PhD in history, I knew I didn’t want to pursue a career in teaching but wanted to remain involved in academia and history. I worked for a few years at the Atlanta History Center, and that’s when I knew I needed something different. There was no plan in mind — the timing of finding my job at Tech was serendipitous. I was offered my job in 2007.

What is the greatest challenge associated with your job?

Being able to convey people’s stories in compelling, inspirational ways. There are an infinite number of stories out there of people whose lives have been transformed by philanthropy, and of people who are committed to helping make Tech a better place.

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