Online Master’s Program Admits 400

MIKE TERRAZAS
COLLEGE OF COMPUTING

More than 400 applicants will be admitted to the first cohort of the College of Computing’s massive online offering of its Master of Science in Computer Science, according to the college’s Office of Academic Administration. The program is set to begin on Jan. 15.

Some 2,361 individuals applied to the program during a three-week application period in October. That number exceeds the total number of fall 2013 applicants (1,806) to all of the college’s on-campus MS programs and is a 74 percent increase over the applications received for the on-campus MS CS program.

Another interesting statistic is that 85 percent of applications were from U.S. citizens or residents — almost exactly the inverse of the U.S./International ratio among applicants to the on-campus program. “We thought we might get 1,000 applications, perhaps 1,500 if we were lucky,” said College of Computing Dean Zvi Galil. “The fact that we almost doubled the number of MS CS applications shows that this program is addressing a real gap in computing education, not to mention a tremendous need on the part of students.”

Of the roughly 1,950 students not admitted for spring 2014, several hundred may be offered deferred admission in subsequent terms. Prior to the application period, the college had planned to enroll about 150 students in each of the five courses to be offered next spring. Given that many students will take more than one course,

Library to Get a 5-Year Face-Lift

TEABRANY STREET LIBRARY

The Library’s renewal project, which kicked off mid-November, aims to define the 21st century technological research library.

It calls for a reimagining of all aspects of the Library’s role on campus — from research services to its collections. “We are moving away from concentrating on housing the physical collections to providing innovative services and inspirational spaces for new generations of faculty and students,” said Catherine Murray-Rust, vice provost for Learning Excellence and dean of libraries.

Although the project is still in its infancy, several aspects are already underway. The Board of Regents recently approved $1.7 million in design funds to renew the Price Gilbert Memorial and Crosland Library towers.

The Institute is also contributing $2.3 million in design funds. By the end of the semester, a firm will be selected to begin design planning work.

Library, continued on page 2

Embrace Social Media for In-Class Success

AMELIA PAVLIK
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram — every class, instructors go head-to-head with these social media services in a battle for students’ attention. But what if there was a way to make this less of a competition and more of a collaboration?

During a recent discussion hosted by the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning, three Britain Fellows from the School of Literature, Media, and Communication discussed thoughts on integrating social media into lesson plans.

Below, Mollie Barnes, Jason Ellis, and Marty Fink share their strategies.

What Would Whitman Tweet?

“@Milon I gotta new rime for you, homeboy. Get on my ship, #MyFreshLiteraryRide” — welcome to Barnes’ spring 2013 English 1102 class.

“Teaching Whitman’s Leaves of Grass can be a challenge, because you’re asking students to read a famously long poem and then figure out what it means,” Barnes said. “That’s why I thought Twitter could be helpful.”

Barnes was looking for a way to help her students better understand the words of poet Walt Whitman. And using the

Social Media, continued on page 3
Campus News

Development Spotlight: EBB to Open in 2015

John McDonald, professor in the School of Biology and director of the Integrated Cancer Research Center, has also spent many years as the chief scientific officer for Georgia Tech’s Ovarian Cancer Institute.

Collaboration doesn’t just come easy for him. It is at the very foundation of his research approach when it comes to understanding cancer. McDonald, then, was a natural choice among faculty members who will relocate to the Engineered Biosystems Building (EBB) when it opens in 2015. Campaign Georgia Tech has been instrumental in raising money for the building.

“I’m convinced that the effective treatment of complex diseases like cancer will require an understanding of the interactive relationships that underlie cell function,” McDonald said. “I am excited about the prospect of working with other researchers committed to a ‘systems’ approach to better understand the basis of cancer onset and progression.”

The EBB was conceptualized and designed, and will be constructed, according to one fundamental tenet — that understanding and fighting multifaceted disease requires a new way of doing things, that new insights emerge not from the solitary confines of one laboratory or one discipline but from shared resources, spaces, and expertise. The collaborative spaces within the facility are decidedly intentional and planned. The five-story, 200,000-square-foot building will house faculty members and other researchers in three research neighborhoods: chemical biology, cell and developmental bioengineering, and systems biology. Within each neighborhood, scientists and engineers from many different disciplines will share lab, office, and communal spaces, making it possible for them to share ideas, perspectives, and resources in an entirely new way.

For many years, McDonald has taken a collaborative approach to cancer research, working with faculty in chemistry and computer science to develop new, highly accurate diagnostic tests for ovarian and prostate cancer, and partnering with biomedical engineers, chemists, and biologists in cell therapies and personalized cancer medicine. Once the EBB is operational, collaboration will drive its every function and use, which will help accelerate the pace of discovery.

“we are not striving to compete with cancer centers like MD Anderson,” explained McDonald. “We are complementing their efforts by developing these unique integrative approaches, and this building will greatly enhance our ability to do that.”

Scheduled to open in 2015, the Engineered Biosystems Building will transform biosciences and bioengineering at Georgia Tech.

COMPUTING, continued from page 1

the approximately 400 spring admissions keep the college right on target.

The new program (informally dubbed OMS CS, for online MS in Computer Science) is being launched jointly by the College of Computing and Georgia Tech Professional Education, with significant contributions from nearly every academic support unit on campus.

“Since we first conceived of OMS CS as a model to deliver an elite computing education to a specific population of students, nothing we’ve seen in the marketplace has proven us wrong,” said Provost Rafael L. Bras. “We continue to be thankful to our collaborators, Udacity and AT&T, and I’m excited to see how the first OMS CS students perform.”

OMS CS course materials will be developed on a platform managed by the online education provider Udacity, which will also collaborate in hiring the individuals engaged in student support roles. AT&T provided an unrestricted gift of $2 million to help get OMS CS off the ground. Soon, the program will offer additional credential tracks for students who are not interested in or do not qualify for the degree program, and many of the current applicants denied admission to the degree program will specifically be directed to these noncredit options.

“We’re thrilled to add this program to Georgia Tech Professional Education’s portfolio of educational offerings for nontraditional students such as working professionals, active military, and others who need alternate models to continue their education,” said Professional Education Dean Nelson Baker. “It’s been a tremendously cooperative effort to launch this program in a very short timeframe, and both Dean Galil and I are very appreciative of the tireless efforts of many Institute staff and faculty who have made it possible.”

www.omscs.gatech.edu

LIBRARY, continued from page 1

Plans are underway to move the majority of the print collection to an off-site facility shared with Emory University Libraries. The facility, known as the EmTech Library Service Center (LSC), will be a Harvard-style, high-density building designed to ensure the preservation of, and access to, paper and microfilm.

The LSC will be located on Emory’s Briarcliff property. This shift will enable the creation of a shared collection available to students and faculty of both institutions, which is a goal of the Emory-Tech partnership.

“We’re seeing a higher gate count than ever, but the vast majority of the print collection is taking up valuable space at the center of campus,” said Amret Doshi, user experience librarian. “Once collections are relocated, there will be a singular opportunity to redefine the role of a research library from a repository of print materials to one of providing ubiquitous and unique research services.”

The next phase of the project includes getting feedback from the campus community on how the Library can support future research, teaching, and learning.

renewal.library.gatech.edu
GTRC Introduces Contract Continuum

By BRIDGET ESPEN
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Research. It’s what’s at the heart of Georgia Tech, and the Georgia Tech Research Corporation (GTRC) sustains that heartbeat by serving as the contract agency for the Institute’s externally funded research projects.

Below, GTRC’s Vice President of Research Jilda Garon talks about the Contract Continuum, a mechanism introduced by GTRC’s recently established Office of Industry Engagement to make it easier for industry and university researchers to engage at any point in the R&D process — from early-stage research to product launch.

Tell us about the Office of Industry Engagement.

It was created by merging the functions of technology licensing, industry contracting, and international collaborations. Organized into three offices: Innovation Commercialization; Industry Collaborations and Affiliated Licenses; and International Contracts and Technology Transfer. Industry Engagement allows for better alignment of contract administration activities and intellectual property expertise. This synergy increases the efficiency of the negotiation process and expedites the time to contract.

Could you explain the Contract Continuum?
The Contract Continuum is a collection of four research contracts: Basic Research, Applied Research, Demonstration, and Specialized Testing. These contracts simplify collaboration between Tech and industry — at all R&D stages — streamlining the contracting process for industry and for our researchers by providing appropriate terms and conditions upfront based upon the research needed.

So, working with the principal investigator to determine the type of research to be performed as well as the facilities to be used, a contracting officer determines which of the four contracts in the Continuum is appropriate. In some cases, all four agreement types may be necessary; it just depends on the relationship with the sponsor and the outcome desired.

What makes the Contract Continuum attractive to industry?
Our established terms and conditions for intellectual property definitively address needs that industry has expressed about: having access to the intellectual property generated from the research; excluding competitors from access to that intellectual property — in the particular field of use — on a fair and reasonable basis; and incurring a financial risk that is reasonable. Additionally agreements align with industry’s R&D process.

Why should faculty be excited about the Contract Continuum?
It was designed to provide our researchers the greatest amount of flexibility in both the type of research that can be performed and the facilities that can be used for research. It allows the principal investigators to pursue transformative research that may not have otherwise taken place. While our industry partners are assured of intellectual property exclusivity, at the same time, we’ve preserved our opportunities for entrepreneurship in other fields of use. This is how, for instance, we have seen results from jet engine research lead to advances with cardiac devices.

Since the Contract Continuum was introduced in March, what benefits have you seen?
We’ve been able to efficiently finalize negotiations that, in the past, would have been protracted or not have materialized. In several recent negotiations, for example, Tech was able to quickly develop a coordinated agreement, allowing the sponsor and our researchers to engage in projects across different schools and GTRI — funded by different business units of the sponsor, and throughout the research spectrum — all without the need for legal review on a project-by-project basis.

What do faculty need to understand about efficiently using the Contract Continuum?
Even with its increased flexibility and transparency, the Continuum must still operate within the framework of Institute policies, state laws, and federal regulations. So, it’s extremely important for researchers to work with their contracting officer early in the proposal process. Industry Engagement offers informational courses for various stakeholders in the research process and will visit any school, department, or lab to provide an overview.

industry.gatech.edu

Social Media, continued from page 1

concept behind Twitter (limited to 140 characters or less) seemed like a good approach.

“I asked students to tweet as many poems they could in a week and encouraged them to focus on what it would sound like if they were writing them in Whitman’s voice,” Barnes said. Although she asked students to write tweets, they weren’t actually posted to Twitter. Barnes wanted the focus to be on writing the tweets not on making them public to those beyond class. But in the future, she would like to actually use Twitter. Instead, the class treated a real-time Google Doc as its own faux Twitter.

Writing the Brain — Social Media Style

Instead of simulating Twitter (limited to 140 characters or less) seemed like a good approach.

“I was blown away by the ways that the students took the information and translated it.”

“The Contract Continuum recently introduced by GTRC’s Office of Industry Engagement is designed to simplify the process of research collaboration between industry and Georgia Tech. Much like Ellis, Fink’s class assignments aimed to build WOVEN communications skills, but she used comics and Instagram.

This assignment encourages students to think creatively about how digital storytelling functions in contrast to print forms and how social media both constrain and expand possibilities for the sharing of life narratives,” Fink said.

The course examined how comics can effectively narrate life events including experiences of dealing with challenges such as homophobia and sexism. So, Fink decided to have the students create their own comics.

Each student was asked to take 50 photos via Instagram. Then the photos were used to create a handwritten comic, which was then made digital again using a range of media from Twitter to YouTube and audio-sharing platforms.

“I was blown away by the ways that the students took the information and translated it, Fink said. “The impressive range of students’ engagement with digital media, and the creativity they demonstrated in formulating nuanced insights and critiques of the Instagram platforms were energizing for me as an instructor.”

Events

January 10
OHR presents a workshop on “Leading at the Speed of Trust” from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Room 149, Global Learning Center. Register at trains.gatech.edu

MISCELLANEOUS

December 10
The Women of Georgia Tech Employee Resource Group will meet at 11:30 a.m. in the Student Center Ballroom. Find out more at www.ohr.gatech.edu/erg

December 13
The fall commencement ceremony for doctoral and master’s candidates will be held at McCamish Pavilion at 7 p.m. John Cressler of the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering will be the speaker. Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava will receive an honorary degree. www.gatech.edu/commencement

January 31
This is the deadline to apply for one of five F.6.05 scholarship awards by the Georgia Tech Faculty Women’s Club. Undergraduates who have a parent or guardian employed at Tech and have a GPA of 2.75 or above may apply at www.fgw.gatech.edu

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

Classifieds


2011 Chrysler 200 Convertible (metallic black lift and black interior). 56,000 miles. Excellent condition. $20,000. Call 404-756-5649 or email swills@gatech.edu.

2008 Acura RDX AWD with Tech Pkg. 73,000 miles, bronze pearl, navigation, sunroof, back-up camera, satellite radio, leather, dealer maintained, power seats/ mirrors, great tires, perfect condition. Excellent condition/ $17,900. Email ad196facilities.gatech.edu.

Classifieds continued on page 4

www.whistle.gatech.edu
**Rwandan Ambassador to Give MLK Lecture**

**Community News**

**IVAN ALLEN COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS**

One’s academic impulses can take an unexpected turn sometimes, as Carl DiSalvo discovered when he was a graduate student at Carnegie Mellon University.

“I had the opportunity to work with professors who were really committed to community engagement, both in terms of community building and learning,” said DiSalvo, an assistant professor in the Graduate Program in Digital Media, School of Literature, Media, and Communication.

“I hadn’t thought about that before, and it wasn’t something I had initially planned on doing.”

DiSalvo now studies the products and process of interaction design. The interdisciplinary work, which draws from the humanities, science and technology, and design, aims to increase community building and public engagement through digital media.

**How would you characterize your research?**

My research has to do with engaging with the public around issues of science and technology — more specifically around the design of digital communications infrastructures to support social interaction. Much of my current work is focused on small-scale agriculture and exploring how we can design digital technologies to support local food production activities and systems.

**Why the focus on food systems?**

Here in Georgia, lots of people care about locally grown food, and they participate in local food production activities. It’s a form of social interaction that promotes community building. For example, many people participate in community gardens. Others have azalea gardens, and they might sell their produce to a local farmer’s market or even give their food away — that’s really important to food banks, churches, and other services that provide fresh fruits and vegetables to people in need. We’re also thinking about people who make food products — such as cheese and sausage makers. Somewhere else, you might have community concerns around another issue — pollution, for example. The communication tools we want to develop in that area would be different, but the basic question would remain the same: How do we provide technology tools for people who want to pursue these community-based projects and help them succeed with them? Once we develop these practical tools, we want to communicate our findings to other researchers who are interested in finding ways to facilitate community participation, so they can see if what we’ve done can be adapted to their own particular areas of interest.

**How does this research complement your job as a teacher?**

I bring this research to a project studio I teach where we’re working with a small farm over on English Avenue called the Friends of English Avenue Farm. This is a very special place. It’s a small endeavor on a vacant lot where a house once stood, and it’s run by two people. They grow fruits and vegetables and then, every other week, give them away to people in the neighborhood who are in need. It’s a wonderful service. The class studies the operation to determine what kinds of tools we can provide for these folks to help them better manage their farm, attract donors and volunteers, and communicate their mission and success to a larger audience.

For example, we created a visualization tool — a Web-based application that takes raw data and converts it into various graphical formats — that enables Suzanne Baker at the Friends of English Avenue to chart her farm’s yield over time. Using this tool, she can show in a compelling visual format how much produce and the variety of produce the farm has contributed to the community over time. In addition, we redesigned the Friends of English Avenue website to better integrate with social media and feature rich visual content, such as photos and an interactive timeline. This further enables Suzanne to share the important work of the Friends of English Avenue. This project is affiliated with Georgia Tech’s Westside Communities Initiative. Led by Ivan Allen College and the College of Architecture, the initiative is connecting people and organizations across the Institute and across Atlanta to create sustainable solutions and foster points of unity.

**Read this article in its entirety at**

http://c.gatech.edu/1dQvEtp

### MISCELLANEOUS

Read this article in its entirety at

http://c.gatech.edu/1dQvEtp

### Rwandan Ambassador to Give MLK Lecture

**AMELIA PAYLICK**

**INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS**

Members of the Georgia Tech and Atlanta community are invited to hear Rwandan Ambassador Eugene-Richard Gasana deliver the Institute’s annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Lecture on Jan. 17.

Gasana is a Rwandan diplomat and is the current permanent representative of Rwanda to the United Nations.

“Diversity is one of Georgia Tech’s greatest assets and priorities, and we’re delighted to have Ambassador Gasana speak at our annual celebration of Dr. King’s legacy,” said Archie Ervin, vice president for Institute Diversity.

“It is our hope that events like this one will spark discussion and renew enthusiasm for building the kind of society Dr. King hoped to create.”

The lecture will be held at 3 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom. Those interested in attending should RSVP at http://c.gatech.edu/1hAG29o.

The MLK Keynote speaker is a diplomat and the current permanent representative of Rwanda to the United Nations.

**Rwanda to the United Nations.**

“Diversity is one of Georgia Tech’s greatest assets and priorities, and we’re delighted to have Ambassador Gasana speak at our annual celebration of Dr. King’s legacy,” said Archie Ervin, vice president for Institute Diversity.

“It is our hope that events like this one will spark discussion and renew enthusiasm for building the kind of society Dr. King hoped to create.”

The lecture will be held at 3 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom. Those interested in attending should RSVP at http://c.gatech.edu/1hAG29o.