MOOC Matters: Flipped Classrooms

VICTOR ROGERS
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Bonnie Ferri is searching for an answer. So what’s the question? What is the best way to structure massive open online courses (MOOCs) for dual use — for the off-campus audience and also as a platform to enhance on-campus learning?

Ferri, professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE), is champion of one of seven innovation hubs studying questions regarding MOOCs.

One method of structuring MOOCs for dual use that is proving to have merit is the flipped classroom model that takes a regular class, such as ECE 3710: Circuits and Electronics, and removes all of the lecture material and puts it in the MOOC. Classroom time is then used for recitation, active learning, problem solving, and hands-on experiences.

“In this case, the students have their laptops and measurement devices, and they’re doing mini-experiments at their desks,” Ferri said. “They’re engaged with each other and with the instructor.”

As part of her group’s research, Ferri recently attended a conference on online education and spoke with instructors who are using MOOCs in their classrooms.

One method of structuring MOOCs for dual use is the flipped classroom model that takes a regular class and replaces the lecture portion with an activity.

Ferri said, “They’re engaged with each other and with the instructor.”

They used MOOCs as extra resources for the class, she added. “The consensus, from talking to a number of people, is if you’re going to do this, take all of the higher-level learning and do that in class,” she said. “Make the most of the time with the professor. (Consider) what do you want the students to be able to do? Have them do the high-level work — synthesis work, evaluation, problem solving — in class. And have them do lower level things, like studying facts they need to memorize, online.”

Ferri and her colleagues also looked at case studies on campus where instructors are replacing lectures in class with MOOCs. One case study was ECE 4555: Embedded and Hybrid Control, taught last spring by Professor Magnus Egerstedt in ECE. The MOOC was on “Control of Mobile Robots,” and Egerstedt worked with a 4000-level class. “This is unusual because it’s a mathematical class taken by graduate students as well as seniors,” Ferri said. “It’s very high level and not your typical MOOC because of the level of depth, and it was rigorous.”

All of the lecture material was online.

DUAL USE, continued on page 2

Tech to Hold IT Master Plan Town Halls This Week

AMELIA PAVLIK
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

From computers to course platforms, there’s no shortage of technology-related decisions that need to be made on campus. And as budgets have tightened over the years, it’s become increasingly important to make wise choices.

“DUAL USE that support the Institute’s strategic goals, but our Strategic

That’s why the Strategic Technology Investment Committee (http://ptmo.gatech.edu/stic) has been tasked with creating an Institute Information Technology (IT) Master Plan.

“To the best of my knowledge, this is the first time since the Olympics that we’ve created a campuswide IT Master Plan,” said Jim O’Connor, vice president of the Office of Information Technology (OIT). “In the past, we’d had unit-level IT plans that support the Institute’s strategic goals, but our Strategic

Town Halls will be held on:

- July 10: 10:30-11:30 a.m.
- Room 152, Clough Commons
- July 11: 10:30-11:30 a.m.
- Room 123, COA Auditorium
- July 12: 1-2 p.m.
- Room 100, Scheller College of Business

MASTER PLAN, continued on page 2

Buzzin’ Back to School Drive Seeks Donations

MATT WERNER
HUMAN RESOURCES

Whether it’s notebook paper or crayons, there are plenty of items you can donate to this year’s Buzzin’ Back to School Drive.

“The goal of this supply drive is to ensure that all Georgia Tech employees can provide their children with the tools to succeed academically,” said Janna赣州, an Office of Human Resources (OHR) customer service representative.

To achieve that goal, we need help from the entire Georgia Tech community. OHR has a number of backpacks to be stuffed with supplies donated by the campus community. (See page 3 for a full list of requested supplies.) The items will then be

SCHOOL DRIVE, continued on page 3
**Fall Faculty Invited to Host ‘Hot Topic’ Dinners**

If you are a faculty member who is interested in new ways to interact with Georgia Tech students, consider volunteering to host a Residence Life Hot Topic Dinner.

**About five years ago, we started offering the dinners to give both faculty and students the opportunity to talk about topics that are interesting to them, in an informal setting,** said Brett Hults, assistant director of Housing and the Freshman Experience. “The goal is for our students to feel more comfortable talking with faculty, and dinners are just one way we address the component of the strategic plan that encourages increased faculty and student interaction.”

The time commitment is minimal for those interested in participating.

For example, Cindy Zapata, an assistant professor in the Scheller College of Business, has hosted a dinner, and said that it only took about two hours of her time to prepare.

“It’s up to the faculty member to think of a topic he or she is passionate about — whether it’s a hobby or a current event — and come up with a few discussion questions,” said Holly Shikano, coordinator of residential academic initiatives for staff and community development in Residence Life. “After that’s done, all you have to do is navigate to the building the night of the dinner and hang out with our students.”

Charles Losita, a Regents Professor emeriti and chair in the School of Chemistry and Biochemistry, has also hosted a dinner. He chose to speak about his experiences with students over many years at Tech and his love for mentoring.

Liotta’s advice to any colleagues interested in participating in the program?

“Don’t do all of the talking,” he said. “Allow students to engage in give-and-take conversations.”

**Technology Investment Committee recognizes the value of an Institute-wide approach to leveraging our IT investments.**

Town halls — open to anyone interested in attending one of the three sessions — will be held this Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday (see this issue’s calendar for details) to introduce the project to campus and generate discussion. Attendees will hear about the project’s goals and objectives and how they can participate in the process.

“We are looking for input from the campus community to help us understand how technology is impacting the campus and how future technologies will support Tech’s mission,” said Robert Gerhart, IT manager for the College of Architecture and project leader for the master plan.

The plan is meant to address IT needs up to five years from now and aims to answer questions such as:

• How do we align IT services and operations with the business, academic, and research needs of Tech’s community?

• How do we manage technological change in a way that capitalizes on opportunity, mitigates risk, and adds value to the community in a manner that is planned, efficient, and quantifiable?

• How do we create an infrastructure and a support structure that rapidly and effectively adapts to evolving technologies and their uses?

In addition to the town halls, the committee is interviewing faculty, staff, and students to get input and will conduct a campuswide survey in the fall.

The town halls, interviews, and the survey are unique opportunities to offer your thoughts on how the IT community can help support your unit’s strategic goals,” O’Connor said. “You can help us understand what investments and services help you contribute to making Georgia Tech the ‘technological university of the 21st century.’”

For more information, contact Gerhart at gerhart@gatech.edu.
Campus News

Time to Register for Kaiser Permanente Race

CAMPUS RECREATION CENTER

Whether you’re a walker, runner, or cardio newbie, take your time, and enjoy the experience. That’s Larissa Brown’s advice for anyone participating in this year’s Kaiser Permanente Corporate Run/Walk.

“I first participated in 2007 and have only missed one race since then,” said Brown, a contracting officer in the Office of Sponsored Programs. “I did my first race to get to know some of my fellow co-workers who were also participating. I keep coming back because I get to meet other members of the Tech community and make memories I can share with co-workers.”

Registration for this year’s race, which will be held on Sept. 12, is now open — and it’s not too early to sign up.

“One of the best benefits of participating is that Tech faculty and staff members who aren’t already members of the Campus Recreation Center (CRC) receive a free membership from July 11 until the race,” said Elisha Smith, fitness coordinator of G.I.T. FIT Programs and organizer of the Tech team.

Participants also receive Kaiser Permanente Run/Walk and Georgia Tech T-shirts and can attend an after-race gathering with food and beverages.

“The winner of this year’s departmental challenge — the department with the most participants signed up — will receive a plaque and chair massages. There will be a winner for the department with fewer than 50 employees and for the department with more than 50 employees.”

“All levels of walkers and runners are invited to join in,” Smith said. “And friends and family of faculty and staff members are also welcome.”

Georgia Tech Police Department Captain Randy Barrone has made it to four races.

“I like challenging myself to run faster each year,” he said. “My advice for others is to set a personal fitness goal and take advantage of the free CRC membership. And remember — don’t be nervous or intimidated. Just go at your own pace, and have fun!”

The cost is $27 per registrant before Aug. 12 ($32 after that date). Register at the website below and join the “Georgia Institute of Technology” team. Questions? Email Smith at elisha.smith@crc.gatech.edu.

www.kpcorporatenurunwalk.com

Buzzworthy Achievements

INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

The following Georgia Tech employees and units have been honored in recent months:

- Haesun Park, associate chair for graduate studies in the School of Computational Science and Engineering, was named a Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics Fellow.
- The Office of the Arts received a Doris Duke Charitable Foundation grant for $130,000 to enable the Institute to work with choreographer Jonah Bokaer to develop a project titled, “Applied Movement: App Development for Choreography.”
- Dimitri Mavris, professor in the School of Aerospace Engineering, has been selected to serve on the Air Force Science Advisory Board. Mavris also received the Faculty of the Year Award from the Graduate Student Administration of the Year Award from the Graduate Student Board.
- Wayne Whitman, senior academic professional in the School of Mechanical Engineering, received the Dr. Anderson D. Smith Administrator of the Year Award from the Graduate Student Senate.
- Kim Harrington, director of the Student Center, received the Friend of the Graduate Student Award from the Graduate Student Senate.
- Lucius M. Sanford Jr., executive director of the Letterwinners Club and director of development for the Athletic Association, was honored by the Georgia Tech Black Alumni Organization.
- Jonathan Colton, professor in the School of Mechanical Engineering and School of Industrial Design, was named a Jefferson Science Fellow.

Awards for this feature are accepted on an ongoing basis. Provide name, title, unit, and honor (spelling out acronyms) to editor@comm.gatech.edu.

Tech Creates Westside Project Archive

INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Have you been involved in any initiative that focuses on neighborhoods on the Westside of Atlanta?

Georgia Tech’s Westside Community Alliance (WCA) is creating an archive of materials related to Tech/Westside programs and is asking members of the campus community to submit related items.

The WCA is a communications network developed in 2011 by the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts, the College of Architecture, and the Office of Government and Community Relations that aims to create cross-community connections.

“In the past semester alone, members of the Tech community have participated in a number of Westside projects including community mapping and engaging high school students in bio-engineering research,” said Sheri Davis-Faulkner, WCA community liaison.

Submissions to the archive may include maps, presentations, photos, and website links — anything related to Tech’s Westside initiatives. Contact Sheri Davis-Faulkner at sherid@fac.gatech.edu.

SCHOOL DRIVE, continued from page 1

The Buzzin’ Back to School Drive is in need of the following supplies:

- College-Ruled Paper
- College-Ruled Notebooks
- Wide-Ruled Paper
- Wide-Ruled Notebooks
- No. 2 Pencils
- Black or Blue Ink Pens
- Erasers
- Glue Sticks (White)
- Pocket Folders
- Crayons
- Three-Ring Binders
- Rulers

Students interested in receiving a backpack for their child should submit an online request by Friday, July 22. More information is available at ohr.gatech.edu/ buzzinbacktoschool

Last year’s Georgia Tech Kaiser Permanente Corporate Run/Walk team.
Advocating for Acceptance Is Priority for Ingram

AMELIA PAVLIK
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

This Memorial Day weekend, Danny Ingram wasn’t lounging poolside or grilling out in Piedmont Park — he was in Washington, D.C., speaking for veterans everywhere.

“On May 31, I participated in one of three panels that testified before the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights,” said Ingram, a senior technical analyst in the Office of Information Technology (OIT). “Myself and the other veterans were asked to speak on a variety of issues in the military — ranging from religious issues to benefits for same-sex couples.

“Ingram spent Memorial Day honoring low veterans at Arlington National Cemetery. (To view the testimony, visit http://c.gatech.edu/11IXgZR.) But Ingram’s role in advocating for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) rights — especially the rights of those who were in the military — goes back to the early 1990s. About halfway through his six-year military career, Ingram decided to go public with the fact that he is gay.

‘I had some remarkable people who had the courage to come out,’ he said. ‘And I finally decided that I couldn’t let them all take the heat for me.’

It was 1992 (a year before Don’t Ask Don’t Tell became a law) and since there was only a policy in place prohibiting gays in the military (rather than a law), Ingram decided to write a letter to his commanding officer.

‘For the next year, Ingram waited as his case worked its way through the system. Ten days before the end of his military commitment, Ingram received an honorable discharge.

‘Even since, I’ve worked with the organization, American Veterans for Equal Rights advocating for LGBT veterans,’ said Ingram, who is now president of the organization. ‘Even though I was discharged, I love and honor the military. And the goal of this group is to provide a place where LGBT veterans can honor our pride in service and our sexual identity.’

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

Did you intend to end up in this career? Actually, no. I intended to become a Catholic priest and major in psychology, religion, and English at Emory University. I really just fell into my job at Tech. I was working in the cashier’s office at Emory when a former co-worker (who had accepted a job at Tech) told me I should take a job here. So in 1984, I came to the Institute, first working in Information Services, which was absorbed by OIT. My job was to work as the liaison between people on campus and the computer programming staff. And after moving around over the years, I’m now in a similar role.

Tell us about your job. I help people across campus explain their technology project needs to our programmers — I consider myself a bit of an interpreter. For example, I’m currently working with the Bursar’s office to help them develop an online tool that will improve efficiency. I will help them write the design specifications and will make sure that the programmers meet their needs.

What is your greatest challenge? The hardest part about my job is having to be able to direct a person to someone who may be able to help them.

What are a few things that all faculty and staff do should do while working at Tech?

Work out at the Campus Recreation Center (that is my go-to stress reliever), and attend events that feature our students. I’m always so impressed when I see what they can do.

Community News

On Memorial Day, Danny Ingram visited Arlington National Cemetery to pay respect to veterans.

On Memorial Day, Danny Ingram visited Arlington National Cemetery to pay respect to veterans.

Students Blog Near, Far Summer Experiences

KRISTEN BAILEY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

What is summer like for Georgia Tech students?

Many trade Atlanta’s heat for experiences such as interning, co-oping, or studying and working abroad. Others stay to take classes, work, do research, or just enjoy a quieter campus environment.

Some students, both near and far, have been chronicling their experiences online the past few weeks and will continue to do so through the summer. Should you be looking for some fresh summer reading, here are a few blogs worth following:

• I Am Liberal Arts (http://iamliberaltart.tumblr.com/): This group from the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts features students with varied summer plans. The stories come to you from places including Atlanta, France, Russia, England, China, and Italy.

• @chintanparikh (http://chintanparikh.github.io): Rising second-year computer science major Chintan Parikh landed an internship with a startup company in New York and will write about his work and experience as one of the youngest members on his team.

• Techies Roving Internationally (http://gtrips.wordpress.com/): If you’d like to focus on the international experience, you can read what President’s Scholars have to say about their travels and studies around the world: Spain, Singapore, and Ethiopia are among the many places these students are exploring throughout the summer.

• Kara Strasser (http://karamstrasser.wordpress.com): Strasser, an undergrad in materials science and engineering, is studying abroad in Metz, France, and plans to visit 12 countries in three months, cataloging her travels and experiences.

For more Georgia Tech blogs, visit http://gatech.edu/blogs

Michael Maurer, a computer science major studying abroad for the summer, paraglides in Switzerland. He blogged about the experience at gtrips.wordpress.com.

Classifieds

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution is not responsible for the accuracy of this classified advertising. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution is not responsible for unsolicited photos or text. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reserves the right to edit all submissions for space and content.

2BR/1BA house with den for rent in Westside Atlanta area. Quiet dead-end street. Large, beautiful yard. Well-maintained. Easy access to Tech, Buckhead, I-75, and I-285. $950/mo. Available now. Email iamrav@gatech.edu or call 404-316-3969.

3BR/2BA peaceful, furnished, water-front cottage along the southern outer banks (Manteo, NC). $750/week. Wi-Fi, central A/C, WD, barbq, dock, 400 ft. dock, and boat slip. No smoking or pets. For more info, visit http://travel.ajc.com/ad/158 or email jud.ready@gatech.edu or call 404-291-5785.


Beautiful 3BR/3.5BA, 4,000 sq. ft. house for rent in a swim/tennis community. 20 min. to Tech, 5 min. to Silver Comet Trail. Large private pool, deck, lake view, basement, storage, and covered deck. Email rashima@gatech.edu or call 404-291-5785.

2BR/2BA condo for sale just off Howell Mill Road. Great for couple who want to live close to Georgia Tech. Qued at off-street parking. Available now. $25K discount for Tech employee students with military connection. Email carol@kennemore.net.

Hilton Head timeshare available Aug. 30 to Sept. 6. 2 BR/2BA condo on the beach at the Marriott Grand Ocean Resort, $1,400 for the week. 50 percent deposit to reserve. Call Bob at 770-876-3779.

2BR/2BA bungalow for rent. Minutes to Tech, quiet in-town neighborhood (NW Atlanta), HW floors, newly renovated, central H/A/C, gas stove, DW, disposal, alarm system, large deck in fenced back yard, W/D, pets OK, $795/mo. Contact suzanne.bosick@gatech.edu.

MISCELLANEOUS

Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer illuminated village set of four buildings and miniature characters from claymation film. Made by Hawthorne Village. $100 for set. Email akpavlik@gmail.com for photos.

Sweeper couch/loft bed, IKEA EKTORP (harry blue removabel cover), converts into full-size bed. Bought new a year ago. $399 (price new $799). Email pss3@mail.gatech.edu or call 404-672-6367.

Free to good home: 2-year-old guinea pig. Current owner is allergic. Comes with cage, water bottle, house, etc. Please call 678-332-9923 or email lthornberg@gatech.edu.

Close to Tech, quiet in-town neighborhood (NW Atlanta), HW floors, newly renovated, central H/A/C, gas stove, DW, disposal, alarm system, large deck in fenced back yard, W/D, pets OK, $795/mo. Contact suzanne.bosick@gatech.edu.

Available now. Email juan@gatech.edu or call 678-332-9923 or email lthornberg@gatech.edu.

Moving sale: 2-year-old QUEEN-size mattress in good condition. $100. Rarely used stand-up mixer, $30. Old, but still usable coffee maker, $10. Rarely used stand-up mixer, $30. Old, but still usable coffee maker, $10. Email carol@kennemore.net.

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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.

Ad 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.