Tech Projects Seek Crowd Funding Solution

ROBERT NESMITH
GEORGIA TECH RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Researchers face tremendous obstacles when securing funding for projects. Competition on the national level can be tremendous with continued cuts in funding for basic science research.

For Jennifer Leavey, Georgia Tech's new crowd funding site — Georgia Tech Starter — could be just the thing to kick-start her student-oriented research project. Her Georgia Tech Urban Honey Bee Project seeks funds for electronic monitoring equipment for its beehives. Used by students for a variety of biological, chemical, and environmental research, the beehives provide a look into how the urban habitat affects beehives.

"Georgia Tech is situated both academically and physically at the intersection of technology and nature," said Leavey, a senior academic professional with the College of Sciences. "The city of Atlanta is a large urban environment within the heart of the agriculturally rich southern states. With the Urban Beehive Project, students are investigating how urban habitats affect one of the most important pollinators of food crops."

Seeking $6,750 to purchase webcams and sensors for real-time temperature, humidity, and hive-weight sensors, Leavey said Georgia Tech Starter makes a perfect venue for funding.

"We can reach an unconventional funding source for this unconventional project," she said. "All different kinds of people — alumni, beekeepers, students' families, and those interested in urban agriculture and sustainability — will be drawn to the project."

Georgia Tech Starter is a university-based, peer-reviewed, crowd funding platform for science and engineering research projects. Researchers can access the site (https://starter.gatech.edu) and begin the application process. A series of questions will ensure compliance with requirements. Researchers will receive a review of their projects as well as feedback on how to better craft the project's message for posting.

The Georgia Tech Urban Honey Bee Project is one of the research projects listed on the Institute's crowd funding platform, Georgia Tech Starter.

Nominate Colleagues, Students for Diversity Champion Award

OFFICE OF INSTITUTE DIVERSITY

When you think of diversity champions at Georgia Tech, is there a particular faculty or staff member or student who comes to mind?

The awards will recognize a faculty member, staff member, student, and unit that actively demonstrate and promote diversity within the campus community.

If you know of someone who fits this description, take a moment to nominate that person for the Institute’s new Diversity Champion Awards.

"Georgia Tech’s vision for inclusive excellence is an important community value," said Archie Ervin, vice president and chief diversity officer. "We think those individuals and organizations that demonstrate this commitment deserve special recognition from the community, and this award is intended to accomplish this."

The awards will recognize a faculty and staff member, student, and unit that actively demonstrate and promote diversity, equity, and inclusion within the campus community.

Nominations will be accepted until Aug. 8. Recipients will be recognized at the Diversity Symposium Award Banquet on Sept. 12. For a complete description of the award, the selection criteria, and online nomination/application forms, visit http://c.gatech.edu/15gQFdh

Tech Recognized for Charitable Campaign Contributions

Georgia Tech recently received the Governor’s Cup for the largest amount given to the State Charitable Contributions Program per employee (for the 1,001 to 9,000 employee category) — more than $335,000. "The results of last year’s Charitable Campaign show that our faculty and staff get the connection between strong community services and a better quality of life," said Hope Wilson, last year’s campaign chair for Tech. In this photo, President G.P. "Bud" Peterson poses with members of last year’s campaign team and the award. Stay tuned for more about this year’s campaign this fall.

http://c.gatech.edu/15QqARz
Events continued on page 1

OIT Responds to Campus Email Frustrations

If you’ve experienced more issues than usual with sending emails from your Georgia Tech account in recent months, you’re not alone.

“Having an occasional problem with spam getting through and emails bouncing back will always be a fact of life with email,” said Jason Belford, principal information security engineer in the Office of Information Technology (OIT). “But we’ve noticed a significant increase in these issues over the past few weeks.”

The first mail that is being sent to people off campus has bounced back to the sender, because the Institute has been put on block lists.

“When someone on campus falls for a phishing email, the bad guys are able to use that account to send out email,” Belford said. “When the spammers — disguised as Tech — use the compromised account to send out too much mail, external providers add us to their spammer lists.”

To remedy the problem, OIT provides training to help users understand how to avoid phishing attempts, which leads to fewer accounts being compromised. Also, there is a cap on the number of messages any account can send out. So, once an account has sent out a large number of messages in a certain time frame, the messages are put in quarantine until someone can examine them and determine whether they are legitimate mass mailings, Belford said.

“This cap is high enough that you won’t exceed it,” he added. “It’s just a precaution that we’ve put in place to protect us if a spammer gets ahold of your account. If the messages can’t get out, then Tech won’t get blocked from other organizations’ lists.”

And the new measures seem to be helping. “In the past 30 days, we’ve blocked more than 105 million emails from compromised accounts from getting out,” said Pam Buffington, Georgia Tech’s email service manager.

OIT is also working on improving the filters that catch spam and phishing emails. “If users do not receive the bad email in the first place, then their accounts are less likely to be compromised,” Belford added.

For more information, email support@oit.gatech.edu.

www.oit.gatech.edu

Tech Starter, continued from page 1

on Georgia Tech Starter.

“Georgia Tech Starter is different from other sites in that we use the review process to ensure projects can be successfully executed before they ever hit the site,” said Heyward Adams, co-founder and researcher. “Technicians at the Georgia Tech Starter Center provide feedback and help project creators craft their messages to garner support and appeal to the community.”

David Garton, a lecturer with the School of Biology, has also joined Tech Starter with a companion project to his long-term research into the Palmyra Atoll.

Garton’s research centers on the ecology and biogeography of New Zealand and Australia. His work on the Palmyra Atoll includes shoreline changes and sediment redistribution, as well as the atmospheric lead record preserved in lagoon sediments.

Garton seeks $5,940 in funding to support one- to two-week visits to capture data “snap shots” of atoll lagoon structure to compare with the research conducted in Palmyra.

“Tech Starter funding will allow us to conduct these short visits at other atolls to verify whether the processes we’ve modeled here in the natural world that exists now as well as one that existed several million years ago.”

Both Garton and Leavey agree that any consideration Georgia Tech Starter should clearly establish goals that are easy to explain and justify.

“Tech Starter projects should be simple and straightforward,” Garton said. “They should be as guaranteed as possible to provide meaningful results within a short time frame and fit a strategic need for research in the public interest, to which a donor can easily relate.”

https://starter.gatech.edu

The first problem was funding. “Robosaur Walks” — the name given to the project — seeks roughly $30,000 in funding.

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https://starter.gatech.edu
Donate Items, Time to Shelter Project
OFFICE OF LEADERSHIP AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

If you’re looking for a way to give back to the Atlanta community, there’s an opportunity right here at Georgia Tech.

For the second year, the Office of Leadership and Civic Engagement is inviting the campus community to join incoming students in a service project to serve local women and children in need.

“The Community Connections project is a way to bring together faculty, staff, and students to support our neighboring community partner, the Atlanta Day Shelter for Women and Children,” said Sarah Perkins, civic engagement coordinator for the Office of Leadership and Civic Engagement.

The Tech community is invited to donate items ranging from toiletries to snacks (see box for details) through Aug. 15. Items can continue to be dropped off in the Office of Leadership and Civic Engagement (Room 2211), Flag Building. In addition to donating items, faculty, staff, and students are also invited to donate their time during a packaging event where the items will be assembled into critical need kits.

The event will be held on Friday, Aug. 16, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom. Questions? Contact Perkins at sarah.perkins@gatech.edu.

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Faculty Invited to Teaching Kickoff

CENTER FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

Whether you’re looking to better balance teaching and life or tips for keeping students engaged, there’s a workshop to suit every faculty member’s needs during Fall Teaching Kickoff Aug. 5-15.

“Fall Teaching Kickoff is a chance to help returning faculty find solutions for challenges they may have faced last year and for new faculty to get off to the best start possible,” said Esther Jordan, assistant director for programming and learning excellence in the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning.

Workshops include:

- Course Design Studios. Aug. 5 from 9 to 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- Information on course design, launch, and studio consultation time daily.
- You Can Lead a Horse to Water But… Aug. 13 from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. Will explore how to create a climate for learning that will help instructors achieve course goals.
- Balancing Teaching, Research, and Life. Aug. 14 from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. Will highlight how to achieve better professional and personal balance.

To view the full agenda and register for workshops, visit http://c.gatech.edu/194XZZO

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Museum Celebrates Women Game Designers

IVAN ALLEN COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Georgia Tech has partnered with the Museum of Design Atlanta on an exhibit that highlights the work of women game designers and artists.

“XYZ: Alternative Voices in Game Design” seeks to challenge the misperception that women need to rely on other men to create game ideas. The exhibit runs through early September.

The exhibit was developed in partnership with Tech’s Experimental Game Lab and the Digital Media Graduate Program, both in the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts (IAC). Celia Pearce, director of the Experimental Game Lab and co-founder of IndieCade, the international festival of independent games, recently answered a few questions about XYZ.

Can you give a brief overview of what the exhibit is about?

It’s well-known that the game industry has a “gender problem.” The last diversity survey, which was done in 2005, turned up an 11 percent female workforce, with the majority of women in the industry in human resources and marketing roles. It may be slightly higher at this point, but not by much. You can really see the “boys club” ethos in stark relief when you look at what games get made and how they are marketed. But in spite of all that, women have had significant roles in game development that have influenced some of the most important and groundbreaking games in a variety of genres and contexts. We wanted to let people know that this isn’t just a boys’ club, and that women, in part because of our marginalization, are making important contributions and redefining the way we think about games.

Why do you think that exhibits like this are valuable?

One of our former Ph.D. students, Brian Schrank, is working on a book about the avant garde in games. One of my favorite points that he makes is that it’s really not hard to be avant garde in an industry that is so incredibly conservative. I’m still recovering from the E3 conference earlier this month; I always come away from it with a case of testosterone poisoning. It’s just an onslaught of testosterone. It’s always come away from it with a case of testosterone poisoning. It’s just an onslaught of testosterone. It’s just an onslaught of testosterone. It’s just an onslaught of testosterone. It’s just an onslaught of testosterone. It’s just an onslaught of testosterone. It’s just an onslaught of testosterone.

How is IAC addressing the gender issue in games?

IAC, and particularly the School of Literature, Media, and Communication (LMC), has an important role to play on the campus as well as rethinking the relationship between technology and culture, both in terms of how technology is made and how it affects the broader culture. As the liberal arts and humanities school in a technical university, we have a high percentage of female students and scholars relative to the rest of the campus. We have interdisciplinary programs such as Computational Media, which LMC manages jointly with the College of Computing and which is around 1/3 female, around twice the national average for IT programs. We have also been taking a leadership role in other aspects of diversity. Through initiatives such as Women in Science and Technology and the Africa-Atlanta project, we are redefining the underlying values of technology fields in order to broaden participation. I think having that critical, culturally, and humanistically informed perspective gives us the unique ability to think in new ways about both the creators and the audience for technology, and its role in the larger context of society. This enables us to do real innovative work, such as that being done by our Ph.D. student Nettrice Gaskins with techno-vernacular creativity.

www.museumofdesign.org

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Events

August 3

Georgia Tech Football’s Fan Day 2013 will be held from 3 to 4 p.m. Fan Day Festival at Callaway Plaza and from 4 to 5:30 p.m. (Fan Day) in Bobby Dodd Stadium. Festivities will include an autograph session with players and coaches, opportunities to take photos with Buzz and cheerleaders, a D.A. and a kids’ zone with inflatables.

Learn more at http://c.gatech.edu/150G Exp

August 4-5

The Fall Freshman FASET Orientation program for incoming freshmen and their parents will be held at locations across campus all day, both days. Learn more at http://c.gatech.edu/15W02D

August 29

President G.P. “Bud” Peterson will deliver his 2013 Institute Address at 11 a.m. in Room 152, Dough 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.

ww.gatech.edu/president

For a more comprehensive listing of events updated daily, visit www.gatech.edu/calendar
Teaching Wasn’t Always in Cards for Beyah

AMELIA PAVLIK
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

As a 6-year-old boy, Raheem Beyah dreamt of soaring to space and visiting far-off planets. He even had the “uniform” — a store-bought costume — ready to go. But something happened on his way to the moon.

“I’m not really sure what changed my mind, but it probably had something to do with a love for video games,” said Beyah, an associate professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering. “In high school, I didn’t have a clue as to what an engineer did. But a counselor saw that my strengths were math and science, and explained that engineering would be a good path for me.

While working on his bachelor’s and master’s degrees, Beyah gravitated more and more toward the world of computer engineering and became fascinated with networking and virtual reality.

“Working at a consulting firm seemed like the right place for me once I graduated,” he said. “However, I quickly realized that I didn’t like the lack of flexibility when it came to the projects on which I worked — many were not challenging — so I headed back to get a Ph.D."

But it wasn’t until Beyah had an opportunity to teach a class at Georgia State University (GSU) that he had his aha moment.

“I was teaching and helping Gary May, associate professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, with his FACES initiative at GSU and happily returned to Tech in 2011.

Tell us about your area of expertise.

I develop algorithms to improve the performance and security of computer networks and computing devices connected to networks. For example, one project I’ve worked on created a method for identifying electronic devices based on their digital footprints — meaning the way the devices interact with various websites, networks, and each other.

What is a typical day like for you?

I’m usually teaching a class and meeting with my graduate students. I do a lot of reporting to the agencies that fund my research projects. I’m also director of the Summer Undergraduate Research in Engineering/Science (SURE) Program, faculty advisor for the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Program, and coordinator of a postdoctoral fellowship program for the FACES initiative. So my responsibilities to these groups keep me pretty busy.

What do you do to keep students engaged in your classes?

Cybersecurity is a topic that is always in the news, so it’s easy to make the subject relevant to students’ lives. Also, I really enjoy what I do, so I think I come across as being excited about what I’m talking about, which gets my students excited, too.

Where is your favorite spot on campus?

The Starbucks in Clough Commons. It’s convenient and comfortable, so I usually have a lot of my meetings there.

What do you do in your free time?

I have a 6-year-old daughter and 5-month-old son, so a lot of my free time is spent with my wife and children. I also enjoy being engaged in the community beyond Tech. As a faculty member, it’s easy to just focus in on your area of research. But I’ve realized that knowing what’s going on in Atlanta and being a part of that community is key to my happiness. I’ve served on the board of directors for the KIPP WAYS Academy, which is a charter school in Atlanta. Recently, I was accepted into the Leadership Atlanta program, so that will keep me pretty busy in the year to come.

7 Strategies for Smarter Investments

AMELIA PAVLIK
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Whether you’re saving for retirement or your child’s college tuition, understanding the investing options available to you is key to your success.

On July 19, a workshop offered as part of the Be Well Seminar Series, hosted by the Office of Human Resources, focused on women and money management. (However, the advice would work for members of both sexes.)

During the presentation, David Edmisten, a financial solutions advisor at Merrill Edge, offered the following investing strategies.

• Know your tolerance. Be real with yourself about your financial and emotional tolerance for risk. For example, if you are retiring in a few years, you will probably feel more comfortable with less risky investments such as bonds and cash.

• Roll over 401(k)s from previous jobs.

• Participate in a spousal IRA. If you are married to someone who isn’t in the workforce, encourage him or her to participate in a spousal IRA. This protects you if, for example, the stock market crashes.

• Revisit your investments regularly. Redistribute the amount you have invested in stocks, bonds, etc. based on where you are in your savings goal timeline.

• Make sure your beneficiary information is accurate. Whenever you have children or get married or divorced, be sure to update this information to ensure that any money goes to the right people.

• Find a qualified financial planner. Ask your friends for suggestions. Interview a few people and then make a choice. This person is going to handle your money, so don’t make a snap decision. Also, don’t commit to more than a year with this planner. That way, you can move on if the person isn’t doing what you need him or her to do.

For the full presentation, visit http://c.gatech.edu/15mS4d6

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CLASSIFIEDS

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

Free to good home: 2-year-old guinea pig. Current owner is allergic. Comes with cage, water bottle, house, etc. Please call 678-352-9623 or email thombran@gmail.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

Submit your 35-word-or-less ad to editor@comm.gatech.edu

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.