Know Strategies to Assist Troubled Students

AMELIA PAVLIK
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

He was the kind of student any professor would dream of teaching.

During a recent discussion, sponsored by the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning (CETL), a professor shared an experience that he hopes no other faculty member has to go through.

“The first indication I had that anything was wrong was when a colleague who had the student in a class mentioned that the student hadn’t shown up for a presentation,” the professor said. “No one could reach the student, so the police went to the student’s apartment.”

The student had died by suicide.

“This came as a complete shock to me,” the professor said. “In speaking with the student’s father, I learned that the student had been treated for depression in the past — but that was never shared with any professors or friends.”

Sometimes it can be difficult to detect students who are in trouble — as was the case with this professor and student. But many times, all it takes is simply asking a student if he or she is OK to get clued in and they should use them,” he added.

The number of students seeking treatment for depression and anxiety have remained relatively stable at Tech, which is consistent with national trends. However, over the past four years, there has been an increase in the number seeking treatment for alcohol and drug abuse, from an average of 8.2 percent from 2004 to 2007 to 9.75 percent from 2008 to 2012.

Data from the past 12 years indicate that about 60 percent of the center’s clients are undergraduate students (primarily second year and beyond), and 40 percent are graduate students.

STUDENTS, continued on page 2

Institute Announces 6 InVenture Prize Finalists

INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

The finalists for Georgia Tech’s fifth annual InVenture Prize competition, which will be broadcast on Georgia Public Broadcasting on March 13 at 7 p.m., have been announced.

The InVenture Prize is a competition designed to encourage and support Tech students’ interest in invention, innovation and entrepreneurship.

“We are excited to be celebrating our fifth year with such talented contestants,” said Ray Vito, co-founder of the InVenture Prize.

“Each year, I am impressed by the ingenuity and passion of the students who participate in the InVenture Prize competition. These six finalists, selected from a group of 300 expressing interest in competing, are simply exceptional.”

The 2013 finalists include the following projects:

• BioPIN (Steven Wojcic, Computer Science major from Forsyth,

INVENTURE, continued on page 2

Strategic Projects Gain Momentum

INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

In August 2010, Georgia Tech’s Strategic Plan was a screeching that was just taking root.

Building upon institutional strengths, it was intended to provide a structure for the next stage of Tech’s ascendancy as a global research university. Eighteen months later, the plan is beginning to bear fruit.

“By engaging students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends, we created a shared vision of success,” said President G. P. “Bud” Peterson.

“Georgia Tech’s 25-year strategic plan was designed to be a living document, and together, we are making significant progress on our five strategic goals. As we continue to translate the plan into action, our strength comes from the

STRATEGIC PLAN, continued on page 4

Microsoft E-Learning Available to Employees

Could you use some training on Microsoft products? Check out the e-learning courses at Microsoft.com. For more information, visit http://c.gatech.edu/V6mKhs

NEWS BRIEFS

The Whistle Conducts Readership Survey

Now is your chance to provide important feedback to help guide the future direction of The Whistle. Your thoughts are needed on what The Whistle is doing right — and what we can improve upon. In the weeks to come, a random sample of faculty and staff will receive our readership survey. If you are selected, please take a moment to share your views. Your feedback is a vital part of the planning process for further development of The Whistle. Questions? Email editor@comm.gatech.edu.

ASK AWAY

How many trees do we have on campus?

According to Hyacinth Ide of Landscape Services and the Motor Pool, the campus tree inventory indicates there are 11,046 trees on campus. For more information about Tech’s campus environment and goals for the future, visit the Landscape Master Plan at http://c.gatech.edu/YV0MfT.

Have a Tech-related question you’d like answered? Email it to editor@comm.gatech.edu.

www.whistle.gatech.edu
### Provost Discusses Commencement Changes

**During the Feb. 19 meeting of the General Faculty and Academic Senate, Rafael L. Bras, provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs, discussed how this year’s spring commencement ceremonies would be different from years past.**

Bras explained that to accommodate the large number of undergraduate students who will walk in the ceremony in the McCamish Pavilion, two ceremonies will be held on Saturday, May 4 (at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.), instead of one.

“I encourage you all to attend, as I think the students deserve our support,” he added.

For more information about this spring’s graduation and undergraduate ceremonies, visit www.gatech.edu/commencement/spring2013.

### Speaking with Troubled Students

The book “Giving Advice to Students: A Road Map for College Professionals” offers the following advice for speaking with a troubled student:

#### The Steps

- Set aside a time and place to talk to the student where you know you will not be disturbed.
- Approach the student as an interested individual, rather than as an authority figure who knows what is best.
- Describe the specific behaviors that have raised your concern.
- Avoid global statements that might lead the student to feel judged.
- Make it clear that you are available if he or she wants to talk at a later time, if the student becomes unwilling to talk.
- Consider telling the student about a resource on campus that might be helpful, or consider contacting the resource yourself and asking for advice on how to proceed.

[www.cel.gatech.edu](http://www.cel.gatech.edu/iSleep)

ثلث الفروض الذين ياقتلون في عمليات التفجيرات في أفغانستان هذا العام، وفقًا للجهاز الأمني للنظام الإقليمي (مثل），were killed in a series of bombings in Afghanistan this year, according to the security agency for the regional system.

### INVENTURE Prize

The AnemoCheck device is a finalist for this year’s InVenture Prize.

Ga.; Scott Groveman, Electrical Engineering major from Augusta, Ga.; and Brian Rooste; Electrical Engineering major from Roswell, Ga.; have won the prize.

Free tickets to the broadcast are available at [www.cel.gatech.edu](http://www.cel.gatech.edu/). The competition will also be streamed online at [www.gpb.org](http://www.gpb.org).
Buzzworthy Achievements at Georgia Tech

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

- **Rafael Bras**, provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs, was elected to the board of trustees of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research.
- **Gilda Barabino**, professor and vice chair for graduate studies in the Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering, was inaugurated as president of the Biomedical Engineering Society.
- **Saibal Mukhopadhyay**, assistant professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, has been named one of 26 professors from across the United States to receive a 2012 Office of Naval Research Young Investigator Award.
- **William Wepfer**, Eugene C. Gwaltney, Jr. Chair of the School of Mechanical Engineering, received the 2012 Fellow of ABET Award.
- Twelve faculty from the School of Mathematics were named Fellows of the American Mathematical Society including professors Matt Baker, Jean Bellissard, John Enytre, Wilfrid Gangbo, Michael Lacey, Michael Loss, Doron Lubinsky, Prasad Tetali, Robin Thomas and Associate Professor Brett Wick. Adjunct math professors who were recognized include Bill Cook of the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISyE) and Dana Randall of the School of Computer Science.
- **C.-F. Jeff Wu**, the Coca-Cola Chair in Engineering, received the 2013 FMXcellence award for organization-wide improvements in energy efficiency and sustainability from Building Operating Management.
- **Craig Tovey** has been appointed the David M. McKenney Family Professorship in ISyE for a three-year term.
- **The Department of Housing received the 2013 FMXcellence award for organization-wide improvements in energy efficiency and sustainability from Building Operating Management**.

Awards for this feature are accepted on an ongoing basis. Provide name, title, unit and honor (spelling out acronyms) to editor@comm.gatech.edu.
The 2013 Publix Georgia Marathon will be held on March 17, and the Go T.E.C.H. (Teams Encouraging Campus Health) Coalition is looking for volunteers for its Hydration Station.

Tech’s station marks the beginning of the last mile of the race. Volunteers are needed for setup of the station, cheering on athletes, and making sure water distribution during the race, the station, cheering on athletes, and making sure water is accessible. Each volunteer will be given a free Go T.E.C.H. T-shirt and a complimentary couple ticket to the Ferst Center for the Arts to view a show of their choice. 

For sale: $125 OBO.
- 4BR/3BA home in Atlanta. For sale, good condition. Easy highway access. email: mattsims42@gmail.com.
- 3BR/1BA newly renovated home in Atlanta. 15 to 20 minutes to Tech. Easy access to I-75 and I-285. New kitchen appliances with granite countertops, plus alarm system. $1,325/mo. Available now. Call 404-737-5122.
- Large, furnished house in Chattahoochee Hills. 15 min to Tech. Easy access to I-75. 3BR/2BA. $1,200 sq. ft. house for rent. $1,100 per month. Lely fenced backyard. Quiet neighborhood. Pets welcome. Available now. $925. Email rebecca.bacon@gatech.edu.
- 1BR/1BA condo for rent on Lenox Road. Hardwood floors, granite, balcony, 3rd floor, good location. $300/mo. Includes water and sewer. Email kendria.a.metzger@gmail.com or call 404-277-9731. Available April 1.
- Short-term housing wanted for visiting faculty member (male) from Uruguay for March 16 to April 15. Contact bowman@gatech.edu.

MISCELLANEOUS

Beautifull sofa, loveseat and double ottoman for sale. One owner, great condition. $400 for all. Email anga@alghayes@yahoo.com for more info and photos.

Jung 44 cat. Cat has long hair and is very affectionate. $100. Email cata@alghayes@yahoo.com.

Roland FP-5 digital piano. Almost new with frame and original package and documents. Asking $700 OBO. Email cjhayes@gmail.com.

GE Profile 35-cubic ft. digital washer and matching electric dryer. Washer is in perfect working condition. Dryer makes a slight creaking sound when agitating. $300 (set) OBO. Email jason@gtalumni.org or call 678-228-2852.

For sale: white, wooden dining room table and four chairs. $100 OBO. 36-in. tube-style TV and large TV stand. Both in good condition. $150 OBO for the pair. Email atlanta.g.sellers@gmail.com.


Small brown leather Coach purse. 7 in. across by 6 in. high. $50. Email alicia.stryker@spaceplan.gatech.edu.

Earth science text book for sale. $5. Email alisonkay@gmail.com.

STRATEGIC PLAN, continued from page 1

ongoing collaboration and innovation for which Tech is so well known.”

In Fall 2011, a steering committee was charged with shepherd the development and implementation of 16 institutional projects, each one reflecting one or more elements of the strategic plan.

The projects were led jointly by faculty and staff on topic ranges from undergraduate education to research innovation. They demonstrate a forward-thinking approach, worthy of the Tech motto “Progress and Service.”

Last May, members of the executive leadership team evaluated each project’s final report along with the recommendations and allocated funds to support the continued development of these initiatives.

“Several of the initiatives are fully developed,” said Rafael L. Bejar, provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs.

“Others are moving forward, embedded within the operating units that have been charged with piloting or initiating new ideas. With thanks to the task force co-chairs and the steering committee for their diligent work, we have the framework for pursuing an enriched undergraduate experience and transformative interdisciplinary research.”

Tangible evidence of this sentiment abounds. Investments in the Engineered Biosystems Building and Technology Enterprise Park demonstrate an institutional commitment to re-energizing Tech’s approach to life sciences. And initiatives such as the startup accelerator Flashpoint are helping to position Tech as an institution synonymous with innovation and economic development.

www.gatech.edu/vision

Looking for handicap-accessible apartment or small house in Atlanta to rent. Contact: khalil@khalilgroup.com.

3BR/2BA newly renovated home in Marietta. 15 to 20 minutes to Tech. Easy access to I-75 and I-285. New kitchen appliances with granite countertops, plus alarm system. $1,325/mo. Available now. Call 678-371-5122.

Large, furnished house in Chattahoochee Hills. 15 min to Tech. Minimum of nine-month lease. $1,200 per month. University-affiliated person. Email vikram.nanda@oit.gatech.edu.

3BR/2BA, 1,200 sq. ft. house for rent. $1,100 per month. Lely fenced backyard. Quiet neighborhood. Pets welcome. Available now. $925. Email rebecca.bacon@gatech.edu.

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Volunteer for Marathon Hydration Station

GO T.E.C.H. COALITION

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Tech’s station marks the beginning of the last mile of the race. Volunteers are needed for setup of the station, cheering on athletes, water distribution during the race, and for breakdown and cleanup. (All volunteers will receive a free T-shirt and goodie bag at the event.)

For the past four years, Tech’s station has been voted the Best Hydration Station.

To volunteer, follow these instructions:

Go to http://c.gatech.
edu/STTP4vS
Once on the group page, select “Georgia Tech” from the drop-down menu.
Enter password “g11.”
Complete the online registration form.

www.gatech.gatech.edu