Staff Gather for President’s Town Hall

AMELIA PAULK
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

“Thank you.” That was the message from President G.P. “Bud” Peterson that kicked off the May 9 staff town hall.

“One of the reasons students come here is to learn how to interact in social environments,” Peterson said. “And a lot of that education comes from the interactions they have with you. What you contribute to this university is something that we will never be able to replicate online or elsewhere.”

The event was one of a series of town halls Peterson has held in recent weeks to encourage ongoing communication between faculty, staff, and leadership, and to share information, including topics featured in the President’s Spring 2013 Update (http://c.gatech.edu/11n9vNS).

First, Peterson provided a legislative update. He shared that $5 million to complete and equip the new Engineered Biosystems Building and $1.875 million to support the renovation of the Chapin Building had been approved. Also, the Institute will now be able to carry forward some funds from one fiscal year to the next, and a bill was passed allowing the Board of Regents to determine the employee contribution rate to the Optional Retirement Plan.

Peterson also said no state funds were allocated for merit increases in FY14. Peterson also touched on statistics relating to student success.

OHR Launches Monthly Be Well Series

OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES

From managing common conditions like asthma and diabetes to handling the day-to-day pressures of the workplace, healthy living can be a challenge.

That’s why the Office of Human Resources has created the new Be Well Benefits Education Series — an initiative that has stemmed from the work of the President’s Family Friendly Task Force Policies.

“OHR is providing faculty and staff with an excellent opportunity created to enhance their work/life experience here at Georgia Tech,” said BeNedra Williams, GT work/life specialist. “By attending this series, employees will be informed about various benefits and wellness resources that can yield balance to the mind and body.”

Each month, one of the Institute’s benefits providers will host a session focused on a current wellness topic such as heart health or diabetes to handling the day-to-day pressures of the workplace. The Be Well Benefits Education Series will feature sessions on topics ranging from handling stress at work to dental health.

The advisory group will serve as a forum for the continued discussion of strategic issues.

With the implementation of the strategic plan well underway, President G.P. “Bud” Peterson has appointed a group of faculty and staff members to work alongside Institute leaders to continue implementation of the strategies outlined in the document.

President Appoints Strategic Plan Advisory Group

VICTOR ROGERS
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

The group will be under the leadership of Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Rafael L. Bras.

“We have made a great deal of progress toward the goals articulated in the strategic plan,” Peterson said. The advisory group will serve as a forum for the continued discussion of strategic issues.
Tech Debuts New Crowd-Funding Website

ROBERT NESMITH
GEORGIA TECH RESEARCH INSTITUTE

If you are looking for funding for an innovative research project, Georgia Tech Starter may be just the tool you need.

Georgia Tech Starter is a university-based, peer-reviewed crowd-funding platform for science and engineering research projects.

“[I] thought we could make Georgia Tech Starter a way to be more aboveboard, in regards to funding.”

I thought we could make Georgia Tech Starter a way to be more aboveboard, in regards to funding,” Mercer said. “Everything is peer-reviewed, so donors know the money will be used exactly as described.”

The site is perfect for generating seed funding (typically amounts up to $5,000) or helping to gather data for a larger project, Mercer said.

Researchers can access the Georgia Tech Starter site at starter.gatech.edu and begin the application process. A series of questions will help 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 on Georgia Tech Starter.

“Our strategic plan calls for defining the technologically rich university for the 21st century and for the relentless pursuit of institutional effectiveness,” said Rafael L. Bras, provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs. “Georgia Tech Starter is a perfect example of innovation and thinking out of the box. Executive Vice President for Research Steve Cross and I encourage faculty and researchers to participate by submitting proposals and letting the world know about the wonderful research going on here.”

Projects will be posted on the site for 60 days, and donors will only be charged if the funding goals are reached. So far, six projects are under review. When the site has 12 projects, it will be launched to the public.

M Mercer mentions the reduction of taxpayer-funded sources’ budgets as the main reason behind the Georgia Tech Starter idea.

“The success of projects on other popular crowd-source funding sites is roughly 43 percent, which is much better than the odds on receiving funding from more conventional funding sources,” Mercer said. “And Georgia Tech Starter can help support projects in ways other than monetarily. Supporters who don’t donate can instead spread the word about projects via social media sites, which can lead to more exposure and funding.”

Open to faculty researchers and students, approval requirements are as follows: faculty must have department head approval. GTRI researchers must have lab approval, and students must have a faculty sponsor.

starter.gatech.edu

ARTS & CULTURE

May 28
Sonic Generator presents a free screening of Fritz Lang’s 1927 science fiction masterpiece, Metropolis, with a live performance of a new musical score composed by Martin Molajun. The performance begins at 8 p.m. and will be held in the Woodruff Arts Center Plaza.

www.sonicgenerator.gatech.edu

SEMINARS & LECTURES

May 21
The Integrated Cancer Research Seminar Series presents Marc Vidal of the Center for Cancer Systems Biology and Dana Farber of Harvard Medical School. The two will speak on “Interactomics and Human Disease” at 4 p.m. in room 1128, IBB.

http://c.gatech.edu/17KpC5f

May 24
The Southeast Soft Materials Workshop will bring together researchers with an interest in soft materials, fluids, and biophysics to discuss their work and partnerships. The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in room 1116, Marcus Nano Technology Building. Registration is free. Register at http://c.gatech.edu/1bWmVD

TRAINING

May 14
Join the Office of Human Resources as it rolls out the 2013 Reading Circle Series. The inaugural event is open to women on campus. The group will discuss Lean In — Women, Work, and the Will to Lead by Sheryl Sandberg from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in room 343, Student Center. Register for the event at trains.gatech.edu

May 15
The Office of Emergency Preparedness will hold a class on Crime Prevention 101 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. in room 011, O’Keefe Building. The course is elective in the Emergency Preparedness Certificate Program. Register at trains.gatech.edu

May 23
The Office of Emergency Preparedness will hold a class on Continuity of Operations Planning from 10 a.m. to noon at 811 Marietta St. The course is elective in the Emergency Preparedness Certificate Program. Register at trains.gatech.edu

WELLNESS, continued from page 1

• May 22: EyeMed, Vision Care, 12:15 to 1 p.m.
• June 12: Kaiser Permanente Presentation — How to Handle Stress at Work, 12:15 to 1 p.m.
• July 9: Bank@Work Expo and Seminars, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (seminars start at 10:15 a.m.)
• July 17: Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) — ConditionCare Programs (Diabetes, Asthma, Heart Health, etc.), 12:15 to 1 p.m.
• Aug. 28: Unum — Disability, Life, and Financial Protection Benefits, 12:15 to 1 p.m.
• Sept. 18: MetLife Dental — Oral Health, 12:15 to 1 p.m.
• Oct. 22: BCBS and Kaiser Permanente Q&A Session, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
• Nov. 13: CIGNA Life Insurance — Life and Additional Plans, 12:15 to 1 p.m.

For more information and room locations, visit www.ohr.gatech.edu/bewell

Events continued on page 3

Town Hall, continued from page 1

budgets for existing grants, but they will likely reduce the number of grants they sponsor in the future.”

Another audience member asked if Tech had plans to create a school or college of the arts in the future, since much emphasis has recently been placed on cultivating the arts at Tech. Peterson said that there are no plans to do so at this time.

To view the town hall in its entirety, visit http://c.gatech.edu/11WdtYJ

Weekly Clery Alert Update

Knowledge is power when it comes to not being a victim of a crime. This map shows where crimes that merited a Clery Alert (distributed to warn about crimes that represent threats to the campus community) have occurred since January 2013. According to the Georgia Tech Police Department, the incident on March 28 was an attempted snatch larceny, while the other eight incidents were robberies.

writer.gatech.edu

Archived issues of The Whistle can be accessed at www.whistle.gatech.edu

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3 Tips to Keep Mobile Device Info Secure

AMELIA PAVLIK
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Important phone numbers and passwords, priceless family pictures, and numerous notes that you’d be lost without — just a few things that many of us would lose if our mobile device was stolen.

“...the average person comes to Tech with three mobile devices ranging from phones to iPods, and they’re often filled with both personal and work-related information,” said Jimmy Lummis, cyber security policy and compliance manager. “And if you’re checking your Georgia Tech email on a mobile device, chances are you have some sensitive data on one of your devices — which puts our sensitive data at risk if that device is lost or stolen.”

Here are a few things Lummis wants you to do to ensure your information is secure:

USE A PIN OR PASSWORD

Most devices offer users the choice of setting up a pin or password to “unlock” them (which makes the data on the phone accessible to the user). Do it, Lummis said. Detailed instructions on how to do this are available through either the device manufacturer’s website or can be found by performing a web search. Android phones vary from manufacturer to manufacturer, so it’s difficult to offer specific instructions on how to set up a pin or password. But usually, the information can be found under the phone’s “Settings.”

AThletes Spots Hot for Phone Thieves

The next time you’re at the Campus Recreation Center (CRC) working out or at a Georgia Tech athletics event, keep an eye on your smartphone.

“In 2013, 35 cell phones have been stolen on campus, more than 70 percent of which were taken from athletics-related locations or activities,” said Captain Randy Barrone of Georgia Tech Police Department’s (GTPD) Crime Prevention Unit.

Ten phones were taken during one incident at the softball facility, seven from inside the CRC, five from Stamps Field, and three from the basketball court on top of the Curran Street Deck.

Unfortunately, most of these crimes have occurred because people are leaving the devices unsecured — so they’re easy targets,” Barrone added.

Barrone also noted that, recently, the iPhone 4S and 35 models seem to be targeted specifically, because thieves can easily sell them for cash. Android users will need to download an app such as PhoneLocator Pro, Cerberus, or FindMyPhone to have this capability.

ActivE Your GPS

Activate Your GPS

Your device probably has its own GPS that will allow you to locate it. But this function has to be turned on to be effective. iPhone users should go to “Settings,” “Privacy,” “Location Services,” and scroll down to the “Find My iPhone” option. Turning this on will allow you to locate your iPhone and remotely lock it or erase the data. (Note that you need to have an iCloud account to use this feature.) For more information, visit http://c.gatech.edu/1lfS4EF.

BACK UP Your DATA

Back Up Your Data

Make sure that the information on your phone is backed up to a device that can’t be snatched from your hand or left behind in a restaurant. The easiest solution is making sure your information is backed up to a desktop computer or laptop. iPhone users can back up their data on the phone after 10 failed passcode entry attempts. For more information, visit http://c.gatech.edu/1lfE6R0.

Activate Your GPS

Android users will need to download an app such as FindMyPhone to have this capability.

Text Message a Day Keeps Asthma Away

LIZ KLIPP
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Simply sending children with asthma a text message each day asking about their symptoms and providing knowledge about their condition can lead to improved health outcomes.

In a study by Georgia Tech pediatric patients who were asked questions about their symptoms and provided information about asthma via SMS text messages showed improved pulmonary function and a better understanding of their condition within four months, compared to other groups.

“It appears that text messages acted as an implicit reminder for patients to take their medicine and by the end of the study, the kids were more in tune with their illness,” said study leader Rosa Arragha, senior research scientist in the School of Interactive Computing.

T.J. Yun, former Ph.D. student, and Arragha recently presented the research at the ACM SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems 2013 in Paris. It is also a replication study of SMS health intervention for pediatric asthma patients originally published in early 2012 in the Proceedings of the 2nd ACM SIGHIT International Health Informatics Symposium.

The results of the research held promise for the future of mHealth studies, a trend based on the idea that mobile devices can be used to improve health and wellness.

Asthma is the most prevalent chronic respiratory disorder in the United States, affecting about 17.3 million individuals, including more than 3 million children. Medication is the main way patients manage symptoms, but research shows less than 30 percent of teens use their inhalers regularly.

Texting, on the other hand, is something teens do regularly and enjoy. Nearly 73 percent of American teens have mobile devices. Tech researchers were interested in seeing if

...the average person comes to Tech with three mobile devices ranging from phones to iPods, and they’re often filled with both personal and work-related information,” said Jimmy Lummis, cyber security policy and compliance manager. “And if you’re checking your Georgia Tech email on a mobile device, chances are you have some sensitive data on one of your devices — which puts our sensitive data at risk if that device is lost or stolen.”

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info@blacks.com www.whistle.gatech.edu...
Volunteering for nonprofits such as the Latin American Association or La Amistad. Interning with local organizations that serve Atlanta’s Latino community. These probably aren’t the activities that come to mind when you think about college Spanish classes.

Welcome to Kelly Comfort’s approach to teaching Spanish — with a service learning twist.

“Rather than learn about speakers of the language, I want my students to learn with speakers of the language,” said Comfort, associate professor of Spanish in the School of Modern Languages. “This approach blurs the lines between serving and learning, giving and receiving, and experience and education.”

Comfort attributes her interest in service learning to teaching English as a Second Language courses as an undergraduate student.

“This approach resonated with me. It not only taught me the value of serving and learning, but also taught me the value of having the opportunity to interact and work with people from other cultures,” she said. “I learned so much by interacting and working with people from other cultures,” she said. “I learned so much beyond the walls of a classroom, and I want other cultures,” she said. “I learned so much beyond the walls of a classroom, and I want students to learn with speakers of the language, I want my students to learn with speakers of the language,” said Comfort, associate professor of Spanish in the School of Modern Languages. “This approach blurs the lines between serving and learning, giving and receiving, and experience and education.”

Read on to learn more about Comfort and her time at Tech.

What did you want to be when you were a kid?

First, I wanted to be an actress, and then I wanted to be a broadcast journalist. But as a junior in college, I decided to change majors and shifted to international studies and comparative literature. To be in comparative lit, you had to know two languages, which led me to Spanish.

How did you arrive at Tech?

This is actually the job I took right after graduate school. My parents live in Peachtree City, and I was fascinated by how the School of Modern Languages was teaching Spanish in very useful ways, so here I am just made sense.

Tell us about your research.

I focus on the intersection between Latin American and European literature from about 1880 to 1910 and have looked at topics such as the changing role of art and the artist at this time, and the interaction between aesthetics and economics.

What have you learned from your students?

Since my students have studied abroad or are from a number of Spanish-speaking countries, I’m always learning new words and phrases that are unique to specific areas.

What is your favorite spot on campus?

The International House, which is a ThinkLike Living and Learning Community (http://enrichment.gatech.edu/thinklike/), is a little biased because I’m the faculty director, but it’s the place on campus where I wish I could live if I were a student. The I-House is a place where students from all backgrounds — international and not tied together. It’s a place that combines my love for language, culture, and learning.

Where do you like to have lunch?

I’m a fan of Osteria Del Figo, and I always order the lasagna.

Tell us something unique about yourself.

Years ago, I swam a marathon in 16 hours, which was something that a swimming coach made me do. Recently, I did my first triathlon to get back into shape after having two kids. I really like the mental challenge that’s involved.

STRATEGIC PLAN, continued from page 1

President Peterson said, “I am confident that under the leadership of Provost Bras and this group we can continue to do so.”

The purpose of the newly formed Strategic Plan Advisory Group will be to serve as a forum for the continued discussion of strategic issues and to provide counsel to Institute leadership on the alignment, effectiveness, implementation, and impact of the strategic plan.

“The notion of what constitutes the technological research enterprise of the 21st century continues to evolve,” Bras said. “We are looking to this advisory group to help ensure that our aim is true.”

Initial members will serve one- to three-year terms, working toward a rotation of alternating two-year terms.

- Giselle Bennett, Electro-Optical Systems Laboratory
- Michael Best, International Affairs
- Kim Cobb, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
- Mark Demenay, Environmental Health and Safety/Facilities Management
- Victor Finnegan, Financial Services
- David Frost, Civil and Environmental Engineering
- Ron Johnson, Industrial and Systems Engineering and Tennenbaum Institute
- Fatimot Ladipo, Federal Relations

404-291-5785.

Email nick59@comcast.net. For sale: white, wooden dining room table and four chairs. $100 OBO. 36-in. tubestyle TV and large TV stand. Both in great condition. $225. Pictures available at www.prism.gatech.edu/~np15/bed. Email agourinville@hotmail.com for photos.

Sailboat for sale. 1980 Catalina 22 swing keel with pop top, CD radio, chair, and futon chairbed that converts to a bed. Excellent condition. $2,900. Pictures available at jellybean00@hotmail.com.

Futon chair/bed in great condition. $2,900. Email atlanta.ga.seller@gmail.com.

Sailboat for sale. 1980 Catalina 22 swing keel with pop top, CD radio, chair, and futon chairbed that converts to a bed. Excellent condition. $2,900. Pictures available at jellybean00@hotmail.com.

For sale: one- to two-bedroom apartment in a swim/tennis community. 20 min. to Tech, five min. to Silver Comet Trail. Large private backyard, lake view, basement, sunroom, and covered deck. Email rishan@gatech.edu or call 404-261-5785.


Beautiful 3BR/2BA, 4,200 sq. ft. house for rent in a swim/tennis community. 20 min. to Tech, five min. to Silver Comet Trail. Large private backyard, lake view, basement, sunroom, and covered deck. Email rishan@gatech.edu or call 404-261-5785.

In April 30.

Ruthie’s Red Noosed Reindeer illuminated village set of four buildings and miniature characters from claymation film. Made by Hawthorne Village. $100 for set. Email akeville@gmail.com for photos.

Jung 414 colio. Student instrument strung with Thomastik Dominants, 4/4 bow, and soft case. $80. Email gnyray@roots.atlanta.com.

Roland FP-5 digital piano. Almost new with frame, original package, and documents. Asking $700 OBO. Email jw88259@gmail.com.

For sale: white, wooden dining room table and four chairs. $100 OBO. 36-in. tube-style TV and large TV stand. Both in excellent condition. $225. Pictures available at www.prism.gatech.edu/~np15/bed. Email agourinville@hotmail.com for photos.

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