Student Veterans Find Home at Tech

KRISTEN BAILEY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

When Scott Gilliam enrolled at Georgia Tech for the second time in 2012, he vowed it would be different from before.

“I decided I’d just keep my head down, not talk to anybody, and just get it done,” he said, referring to his pursuit of a bachelor’s degree, which initially began in 2004. The third-year business administration major first came to Tech to study architecture straight out of high school in Marietta. After not doing as well as he’d hoped freshman year and encountering other personal challenges, Gilliam left Tech and joined the Army. He first served as a reservist before receiving orders to go to Afghanistan in 2009.

During Gilliam’s first semester back at Tech, this time as a business major, he was sidestepping fliers on Tech Walk when he wondered to himself if there was a student veterans organization for veterans. A quick Google search on his phone told him a group of student veterans happened to be meeting in the building right next to him. He walked over and met fellow leaders in Washington, D.C., to discuss manufacturing, industry, and higher education. Find out more at www.gatech.edu/tech-lingo to answer your abbreviation questions.

In 2005, Scott Gilliam left Tech after his freshman year to join the Army. He returned in fall 2012 to complete his bachelor’s in business administration.

Since then, Gilliam’s trajectory hasn’t exactly been “head down.” He now serves as secretary for the Tech Armed Forces Student Association, a chartered student organization that formed from the initial group of veterans he met last fall. He has connected with other military vets on campus and also works as a student assistant in the Office of Emergency Preparedness, a section of the Georgia Tech Police Department.

“I wear a lot of different hats throughout the day,” he said. “I go to work, then to class, then might be talking to President Peterson at a veterans event, then I’m taking a math quiz the next day.”

Through his various involvements, Gilliam tries to balance wanting his classmates to know why he looks older than they do with not wanting to make a big deal of it. Though he feels he sometimes exudes an “old man tinge,” he’s happy to be back at Tech. He never thought of finishing his degree anywhere else — Tech was always home.

“Tech is undergoing an evolution as a campus that’s not just welcoming, but nurturing, for veterans. This year, the Division of Student Affairs established a Veterans Resource Center and hired its first director, David Ross, who served 20 years in the Air Force.”

VETERANS, continued on page 2

5 Benefits Open Enrollment To-Do’s

The 2014 benefits open enrollment period at Georgia Tech runs today through Nov. 22. Here is a checklist to help you complete the process:

Do your homework. Visit www.ohr.gatech.edu/openenrollment for a detailed summary of plan specifics.

Make a choice. Everyone with current University System of Georgia Tech benefits must re-enroll to receive the 2014 benefits of their choice. Also, under the Affordable Care Act, all benefit-eligible employees must have benefits coverage through their employers or another source by Jan. 1.

Certify your status. You must certify whether or not you are a tobacco user. Otherwise, you risk paying a $50 nonrefundable monthly surcharge even if you are not a tobacco user.

Log on. Go to TechWorks (www.techworks.gatech.edu) to make your 2014 elections.

Print a copy. After you’ve confirmed any changes, print a copy of your benefits summary for your records.

www.ohr.gatech.edu/openenrollment

Tech Celebrates Newly Tenured

MARGARET TATE
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

One of the most significant events in the life of a faculty member is earning tenure. That’s why Georgia Tech has opted to take a unique approach to commemorating this milestone.

Every fall, Tech invites newly tenured faculty to an offsite three-day retreat, started in 2011 and facilitated and funded by the Institute for Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ILE), the Office of the Executive Vice President for Research, and the Office of the Provost. According to Terry Blum, director of ILE, the retreat is the only event of its kind in academic circles. At most universities, once faculty earn tenure (a permanent status conferred to promote and protect academic freedom), there is a letter of congratulations and maybe a reception, she said.

“It’s usually more eventful if you don’t get tenure!” she added. “So we’re pretty unique at putting resources into celebrating and developing people at this part of their career. My friends at other universities are absolutely amazed that we do it.”

TENURE, continued on page 3
One of the most significant goals in Georgia Tech’s long-term strategic plan is to sustain and enhance excellence in scholarship and research, which means that Tech has to have the resources to attract and retain the very best faculty, at all levels, from around the nation and the world — not only for a fleeting moment but also for the foreseeable future. In many ways, the faculty are the Institute.

That’s why increasing the number of endowed chairs and professorships across the Institute is a priority for Campaign Georgia Tech. When the campaign wraps up at the end of December 2015, the goal is to have endowed 100 new faculty positions. With just under 26 months remaining, that number stands at 76.

Here’s a look at just a handful of the men and women who have been named to endowed positions funded during the campaign:

- **Henrik Christensen**, Distinguished Professor of Computing, was appointed to the KUKA Chair in Robotics in 2006. The chair was endowed by a $1.5 million grant from KUKA Robotics, a global leader in robot manufacturing. Christensen, who came to Tech from the Swedish Royal Institute of Technology, later became the director of the Institute’s Center for Robotics and Intelligent Machines.

- **Pinar Keskinocak**, the Joseph C. Mello Professor in the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISyE), serves as director of the Health and Humanitarian Logistics Center along with Assistant Professor — both also in ISyE. Keskinocak’s research focuses on supply chain management, with an emphasis on resource allocation, and she is actively engaged in health care and humanitarian logistics. She earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in industrial engineering from Bilkent University in Ankara, Turkey, and a Ph.D. in operations research from Carnegie Mellon University. Joseph Mello, HS 1980, established the professorship within the Stewart School to support faculty in the field of health care delivery operations. Mello is the CEO of Davita Inc., the largest independent provider of kidney dialysis services in the United States.

- **John Krige**, the Melvin Kranzberg Professor in the History of Technology in the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts, has published widely on science, technology, and the post-World War II reconstruction of Europe. Krige was originally trained in his native South Africa as a physical chemist and went on to earn a second Ph.D. at the University of Sussex, specializing in the history and philosophy of science. He became the Kranzberg Professor in 2000. In 1958, Melvin Kranzberg was a groundbreaking scholar who cofounded the Society for the History of Technology. He earned a Ph.D. in history from Harvard University, was awarded a Bronze Star for his service during World War II, and joined Tech in 1972 as the Callaway Professor of the History of Technology. The Institute created the chair in his honor after he retired in 1988, and it became fully endowed during Campaign Georgia Tech.

- **Younan Xia** was appointed the first Brock Family Chair and GRA Eminent Scholar in Nanomedicine in the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering in 2011. Mary R. and John F. Brock III, ChE 1970, M.S. ChE 1971, established the chair with additional support from the Georgia Cancer Coalition and the Georgia Research Alliance. Xia came to Georgia Tech from Washington University in St. Louis where he was the James M. McKelvey Professor of Biomedical Engineering. His research focus areas include nanomedicine, analytical chemistry, drug delivery, imaging, and tissue engineering. A fellow of the Materials Research Society, Xia received the Director’s Pioneer Award from the National Institutes of Health.

For more information about Campaign Georgia Tech, visit

http://c.gatech.edu/15nooQ5

Editor’s Note: This article is part of a monthly series that focuses on Campaign Georgia Tech.

**Spotlight on Endowed Chairs, Professorships**
Tech Starter Offers New Funding Solution

In need of funding for a creative research project? Well, a new Georgia Tech-backed crowdfunding website may be just the resource you’re looking for.

Georgia Tech Starter is the world’s first peer-reviewed, university-based crowdfunding platform for science and engineering projects. Only members of the Tech community can post projects to the site.

“It lets researchers reach out directly to people, who can become a part of science and become more science-literate, which can only lead to good things.”

Read on to learn about three of the six projects currently on the site.

BioBots

Casey Haynes, a biomedical engineering major, is only in her second year at Tech but is already representing the Institute on a worldwide scale. She’s part of a seven-person undergraduate team that participated in the iGem (International Genetically Engineered Machine) world jamboree, an annual competition held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. “We are trying to create what we like to call a BioBot, which is essentially a biological robot that has the ability to sense and interact with its environment,” Haynes said. “In order to create our BioBot, we are trying to express a human cell sensor called an integrin on the surface of a bacterial cell for the first time. This would allow the bacteria cell to interact with its environment in a way it hasn’t before, and interact with proteins around it.” Expressing integrins on bacterial cells can have other applications such as localized drug delivery and the detection of cancer cells, she added.

The Tech Starter funding will most likely cover next year’s iGem registration fee and travel expenses.

Antibiotics and Algae

Troy Alexander, a doctoral candidate, works as a researcher in School of Biology Professor Julia Kubanek’s group. His project, “Accelerating the Discovery of Antibiotics from Algae,” seeks to accelerate the discovery of new medicines for the treatment of infectious diseases from Fijian red algae.

According to the Tech Starter site description, “This project represents the first step in discovering new compounds with medicinal properties. Future work, potentially partnering with collaborators and pharmaceutical companies, would facilitate taking medicinal compounds toward commercialization and clinical use.”

“The amount we seek to raise [$9,450] is large enough to make an impact on our research, but it’s not so large to sound insurmountable to donors,” Alexander said.

Contributions will fund analysis of a large number of samples, which will enable the team to explore new medicines from marine organisms.

The fully-funded project is expected to produce one to two publications reporting two to five new medicinally active molecules, according to the Tech Starter site.

TENURE, continued from page 1

Newly tenured faculty network with one another and faculty mentors during the 2013 retreat.

Blum and Ravi Bellaklonda, Walter H. Coulter Professor and Chair, Department of Biomedical Engineering, oversee the event, and participation is optional. In spring 2013, there were 49 newly tenured faculty, and about two-thirds attended the retreat, which was held Oct. 11-13.

Aaron Levine, a newly tenured associate professor in the School of Architecture, was among those who attended this year. He noted that tenure announcements come out in spring, but the retreat takes place in fall. “It makes sense to give you a little bit of time to adjust to post-tenure life at Tech before you step into the discussion,” he said.

For Levine, the most valuable aspects of the retreat were the chance to meet and interact with other newly tenured faculty outside of his college, the facilitated exercises to get participants thinking about goals and priorities, and the “exemplar” speakers.

“These [speakers] tended to be senior academic leaders at Tech,” Levine said. “But they didn’t talk about their research, which is what you usually hear, but more about their journey. That was actually a surprising part of the retreat, but it was probably the most interesting.”

Another element of the retreat is mentorship, where several faculty with varying years of tenure are on hand to answer questions and offer guidance.

Benjamin Flowers, associate professor of public policy, attended the first retreat three years ago and came back this year as a mentor. He said this time he got a greater sense that attendees were clear about the purpose of the retreat.

“Now it’s more of a tradition,” he said. “The people who are there understand the value of being there. They are interested in having really serious discussions about how to actively leverage the value of tenure, not only in their own research agendas, but around the scholarly community within Georgia Tech and the larger global academic world.”

Next for retreat attendees, will be an invitation to join Tech’s Leaders Roundtable, as well as a gathering sometime in the spring semester to “reinforce the sense of community,” Blum said. Also, every five years, tenured faculty go through a post-tenure review.

“They’re going to try to come up for full professor, get chairs, things like that,” Blum said. “People think of tenure as job security, but it’s not job security without performance.”

Campus News

MISCELLANEOUS

November 13

The Web of Bonfils, Employee Resource Group for faculty and staff who are introverts will be held at noon in the Student Center Ballroom. Find out more at www.ohr.gatech.edu/erg

November 14

A town hall will be held at 11 a.m. in Room 102, Clough Commons, to discuss the changes that will be made to the definition of faculty. General faculty status is being removed and each job title will be designated as either academic faculty, research faculty, or staff. http://c.gatech.edu/eqg88Tz

A memorial service will be held for former College of Computing professor Mary Joan Harrold, who died in September. The service will be held at 11 a.m. at the Tech Catholic Center. Members of the campus community who wish to offer brief reflections at the service can message Antonine Berdon at abendon@cc.gatech.edu. http://c.gatech.edu/16P5ree

The Student Center and Dining Services have partnered to bring local, sustainable food to campus. Stock up, and interact with local vendors and farmers. The market takes place each Thursday on Tech Walk through Nov. 21, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For an updated list of vendors, visit http://c.gatech.edu/100msh7

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

AUTOMOBILES

2005 Chevy Monte Carlo. 189,000 miles. $3,500/negotiable. Good engine/tires. Call Aisha at 678-777-8179 or email aishagaddis@hotmail.com.

1994 Chevrolet Corvette in good condition. $9,000. Call 678-637-4353 or 404-504-5823.

2001 Honda CR-V EX AWD, 142,000 miles, very good condition, clean maintenance record, new tires, forest green. CD player, $5,200. Call Paul at 404-217-5392.

1991 Harley-Davidson XLH883 Sportster motorcycle. 28,300 miles, $2,200. Call 404-504-4999 or email jso.mcsae@ vt. gatech.edu.

2008 Acura RDX AWD with Tech Pkg. 73,000 miles, leather pearl, navigation, sun roof, back-up camera, satellite radio, CD changer. Must be paid in full, cash or check. $20,200. Call 404-894-9999 or email aishagaddis@hotmail.com.

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

EVENTS

INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Tech Starter Offers New Funding Solution

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Vet Talks About Making Transition to Tech

BEN WRIGHT
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Making the shift from working for the Army to the civilian workforce can be a bit of a culture shock. Just ask Ron Johnson.

Johnson served for 32 years in the U.S. Army where he held the title of deputy commanding general and deputy chief of engineers. Before arriving at Georgia Tech, he served as the National Basketball Association’s senior vice president of Referee Operations.

“The Army trains leaders very well. You don’t have an environment of micromanaging,” said Johnson, professor of the practice in the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering and managing director of the Tennenbaum Institute.

“Transitioning to the NBA for my second career, the adaptation there was having the mindset that my job was not to just have them understand the rules; it was to give them tools to cope properly. My job is not to just have them understand something because their tendency is to cope by them saying, ‘I don’t know what’s going on,’ and when the results aren’t the way they expected, they just give up. But these young men and women come with high standards and expectations — not to give up because they think the environment is too tough. People get along, people talk better, people talk about things to cope properly.

What do you like about Tech?

“I love teaching. I love the students — I love to see them grow. I love running into them after I have taught them because that’s when they are more genuine. When you’re their professor, the relationship is different. My job is not to just have them understand probability and statistics but to make them better people. I am pretty serious about that. I love that aspect of it. I love the work environment, too. People get along, people collaborate, and people don’t micromanage you.

Tell us about the new Employee Resource Group for veterans you’re involved with.

We are working to be working closely with other affinity-type groups on campus: the Student Veterans Association, the Georgia Tech Military Affinity Group, and Veterans on Campus. We are going to cooperate. We are not there to replace supervisors and management; we are there to facilitate people getting things done and to help them in their own careers. We hope to do an event each month — we’ll get together and talk about how things are going and will empower people. I’m excited about it. (For more, visit www.ohr.gatech.edu/erg/voc.)

For the Q&A in its entirety, visit http://c.gatech.edu/16H25oE

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CLASSIFIEDS

REAL ESTATE/ ROOMMATES

For rent: 3BR/2B ABA bungalow, minutes to Tech, quiet in-town neighborhood (NW ATL), HW floors (carpet in bedroom), gas FP, central HVAC, granite/stainless/ cherry kitchen, gas stove, DIN, disposal, alarm system, fenced back yard, W/D connections, pets OK. $1,250/mo. Contact susanam.brock@gatech.edu.

3BR/2BA bonus room/2 SBA 2.543 sq. ft. col-de-sac house (quiet neighborhood, 1/250 or safely less than $179,000), available now. Custom-driven; Tech relocation. Hardwoods and neutral plush carpet; privacy-fenced backyard; master and laundry on main. Only 17 miles from Tech off I-20, Call 404-384-5671.

2 BR sublease in Arts Center Tower Apartments, available Nov. 18, 2013. Rent $700, all utilities included. Conveniently located in Midtown and next to Marta. Call 404-336-3919.

3BR/2BA peaceful, furnished, waterfront corner home along the southwest For the Q&A in its entirety, visit http://police.gatech.edu.

MICROCLASSIFIEDS

Brand new, unopened box, Canon InkJet Photo printer P800A (P702 blank and color printer, Compatible with Windows 8, Vista, XP, and 2000. $40. Call 404-894-7527.

Oren Skyskyt X76 Dobsonian Reflector Telescope with stand and case. Asking $350. Pretty, six-drawer, wood vanity and mirror, $75. Price on request. Contact 404-892-7802 or cc60@gatech.edu.

Baldwin Pianovill PS1500 digital con-
sola piano with bench, dark rosewood finish, more than 450 studio-quality sounds (pianos, organs, strings, brass, bass, and percussion). Multi-track MIDI playback and recording. Manual includ-
ed. $875. Email radaman316@gmail.com.

Looking for partn(e)rs to join a guided climb of Mt. McKinley (Denali) during June or July 2014. Interested? Contact ljgfan@gmail.com.

Fancy chest of drawers with rounded-top doors closing over the top. These draw-
ers. Two large bottom drawers. Top of chest is bell shaped. Furniture may sell lower quality for $800 and up. $350 only. Contact 678-429-4964 or email lynchpen@windstream.net.

Free black and white bunny available for immediate adoption. The bunny is in excellent health and friendly. Cage and food provided. Email lubinsky87@msn. gatech.edu.

Several beautifully framed paintings for home or office including a Thomas Blackshear painting; the Prayer of Jabes; The 10 Commandments; and a large por-
trait featuring famous African American writers and poets. Call 404-642-1263.

Cرك registered Yorick puppies for sale. Excellent gift! Contact 404-642-5246 or onewell@yahoo.com.

Xerox ColorQube 8570N laser printer with extra set of CMYK solid ink blocks. NEARLY NEW. Works great for office, lab, or home. $400 (cost $600). Ethernet for network printing. Call 678-995-5067.

* Ads run for at least three issues in the order in which they are received.
Submit your 35-word-or-less ad to CLASSIFIEDS@w. whistle.gatech.edu.