Tech, USG Partner on 2014 Benefits

AMELIA PAVLIK
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

When the University System of Georgia (USG) decided to offer new benefit options in 2014, in addition to medical plans, Georgia Tech was one of the institutions it turned to for advice.

“We have a strong partnership with the USG office,” said Brandon Conkle, director of Total Rewards in the Office of Human Resources. “We shared examples of the Tech plans, which were some of the best in the system, to use as models for the new plans. Going forward, the new plans match or exceed the old Georgia Tech plans in almost every way.”

Starting in January 2014, all USG colleges and universities will offer the same core benefits options including supplemental life insurance, dental, vision, short- and long-term disability, and flexible spending and health savings accounts.

Currently, each institution offers its own selection of benefits outside of the four medical plans.

Give to Charitable Campaign Today — Change Tomorrow

AMELIA PAVLIK
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

In 2006, William Tandongfor moved into his first house — and his life would never be the same.

“Since I’ve become a homeowner, my life has changed for the better,” said Tandongfor, assistant facilities manager for Clough Commons. “My family has been very successful, and this is because we’re Habitat for Humanity homeowners.”

When Tandongfor immigrated from Cameroon in 2003, he began working at Georgia Tech and took on two additional jobs to support his wife and five children.

By moving into a Habitat home, Tandongfor was able to save money previously spent renting a three-bedroom apartment. This meant he was able to spend more time with family — and get an education. Currently, Tandongfor is working on his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership at Georgia Institute of Technology.

The impact of the impasse is being felt around the country, and the problem is made more complex by the country’s need to increase the public debt limit by the time the current ceiling is reached, which is expected to occur on Oct. 17.

Closer to home, the working group appointed by President G.P. “Bud” Peterson has been charged with developing the contingency plans necessary to keep the campus fully functioning. Using the information currently available, the group has forwarded its preliminary recommendations to Institute leadership for consideration.
EVENTS

ARTS & CULTURE

October 18
The Ferst Center for the Arts presen ts the Hot Club of San Francisco. This gypsy jazz ensemble presents Gisena Vivant, an evening of vintage silent films accompanied by live gypsy swing music, at 8 p.m. Call 404-894-9000 for tickets or additional information.
www.ferstcenter.gatech.edu

October 23
The Georgia Tech Yellow Jacket Marching Band presents the annual Surround Sounds concert at 7 p.m.
www.music.gatech.edu

SEMINARS & LECTURES

October 17
Guy Primus, alumnus and co- founder and managing director of Thrillerdome Ventures, will give a talk on “The Application of Industrial Engineering Principles to the Business of Entertainment” at 6:30 p.m. in Room 228, Industrial and Systems Engineering Building.
www.isye.gatech.edu

Join the School of Modern Languages in celebrating Hispanic Heritage and the study of Spanish at Georgia Tech. A reception at 7 p.m. will feature John Creezer of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the award of Emirals of the Alhambra. Creezer will give a talk titled “Revisiting Medieval Spain and Convivencia: A Forgotten Era of Religious Harmony” in Room 116, Swear Building.
www.moli.gatech.edu

October 22-25
The Library has organized a series of events to celebrate Open Access Week, ranging from a panel on faculty perspectives on open access to a panel on open access and the digital humanities. For the schedule of events, visit http://c.gatech.edu/1e6wsXw

October 23
The IMPACT Speaker Series welcomes Darrell Glasso, a managing partner at Social Mission Architects, a firm that guides organizations to financial sustainability and to increase their social impact, at 4:30 p.m. in LeCraw Auditorium, Scheller College of Business.
http://le.gatech.edu/IMPACT.html

October 24
Pervak丰收和R. Bras and members of the campus community will present an update on massive online open courses (MOOCs) at Tech during a town hall at 3 p.m. in the Student Center Theater. A panel of instructors will also discuss what they have learned by teaching MOOCs.
www.provost.gatech.edu

Events continued on page 3

Campus News

Campaign Endows 76+ Faculty Positions

OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT

Georgia Tech’s faculty is a major source of its prestige, nationally and internationally.

The recruitment and retention of preeminent faculty members across all of its colleges and schools is vital to Tech’s future. It is one of the central goals of the Institute’s long-term strategic plan — and a key to Tech becoming the best in teaching, research, and application. So, it is no surprise that building a world-class faculty is also one of the top priorities of Campaign Georgia Tech.

The target for faculty support in the campaign, which began in July 2004 and is scheduled to conclude at the end of 2013, is $310 million — the majority of which will be committed to various levels of endowed faculty positions. Thus far, 76 of these positions have been endowed against a goal of 100.

“The faculty and the students are the university. They are two inseparable parts of a successful whole: good faculty attracts good students and vice-versa. To be successful in retaining and attracting the best scholars, against stiff competition, we must recognize excellence. In academia, there is no better way to reward the best than with a named chair that recognizes accomplishment and provides discretionary resources to take the risks that lead to breakthroughs in teaching and research,” noted Rafael L. Bras, provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs who holds the K. Harrison Brown Family Chair.

For more information about Campaign Georgia Tech, visit
http://c.gatech.edu/15n0qQ5

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

BENEFITS, continued from page 1

information and assistance:
• 2014 Benefits Summary. These will be mailed to employees’ homes the week of Oct. 21.
• Help Line. Call 404-894-GTHR Nov. 4-22 (between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.)
• Computer Lab. Visit Room 319 in the Student Center Nov. 19-20 (between 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.) to log on to TechWorks to complete benefits elections.
• Campus Information Sessions. These sessions on Oct. 22 and Nov. 8 will address the changes for 2014, new plans, and other important action items for this year’s open enrollment. Visit the open enrollment website for more details about times and locations: www.ohr.gatech.edu/oppenrollment.

For more details regarding which benefits are changing — and aren’t — see page 3.

CHARGEABLE, continued from page 1

Merritt University.
Tandongfor shared his Habitat story during the Oct. 1 kickoff breakfast for this year’s Georgia Tech Charitable Campaign. Habitat for Humanity is one of the many charities that benefit from money raised during the campaign, which is a part of the larger State Charitable Contributions Program.

The deadline to contribute to the 2014 campaign is Dec. 15. The Institute’s goal is to get at least 1,500 members of the campus community to give $330,000. Faculty and staff can choose to contribute to more than 1,000 organizations.

In addition to payroll deduction and check donations, both one-time credit/debit card payment and WebCheck options are now available to make donating money easy.
(Giving online through TechWorks at technworks.gatech.edu is preferred.)

CHARITABLE, continued from page 1

www.charitable.gatech.edu

Financial projections show Tech to be well positioned for the month of October. The bigger question is the fiscal ramifications resulting from a continued shutdown and possible government default.
At the Institute level, leadership is looking at ways to provide temporary revenue resources to help mitigate impact and sustain the research enterprise, if it were to become necessary.
Both Georgia Tech and the Georgia Tech Research Corporation are committed to continuing necessary research activities during the federal government shutdown to the degree possible, given resource constraints.

The task force will continue to meet regularly, monitor developments, and update leadership and the campus on a regular basis.
For more information, visit
www.osp.gatech.edu
The Benefits Breakdown 2014

What’s Changing

Medical
- The Kaiser HMO premium will increase by about 4 percent.

Dental
- The Board of Regents MetLife and Georgia Tech Delta Dental PPO plans will no longer be available. However, the Delta Dental HMO plan will continue to be offered.
- Two new Delta Dental plans will be offered and will use the Delta Dental PPO Network (a base plan with a $1,000 annual maximum, and a high plan with a $1,500 maximum).

Supplemental Insurance
- Minnesota Life will be the new vendor for basic life insurance, accidental death and dismemberment, and supplemental life insurance plans.
- MetLife will be the new vendor for short-term disability and long-term disability coverage.

Other Benefits
- A new identity theft solution plan will be offered, which will include identity monitoring, identity theft insurance, and other services for a $7 monthly premium.
- ARAG will continue to provide Tech’s legal plan.

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What’s Not Changing

Medical
- Premiums won’t increase for the Blue Cross Blue Shield plans. However, some co-pays and deductibles on these plans will.
- Health care and dependent care flexible savings accounts will continue to be offered through U.S. Bank.

Vision
- EyeMed will continue to provide vision benefits.

Supplemental Insurance
- Enrollment in Unum Critical Illness and Whole Life insurance plans will be available during open enrollment.

Other Benefits
- ARAG will continue to provide Tech’s legal plan.

5 Open Enrollment To-Do’s

✔ Do your homework.
  Review the benefits summary that will be arriving at your home in late October and visit www.ohr.gatech.edu/openenrollment for a detailed summary of plan specifics.

✔ Make a choice. All employees with current USG/Tech benefits must re-enroll via TechWorks to receive the 2014 benefits of their choice. Also, under the Affordable Care Act, all benefit-eligible employees at Tech must have benefits coverage through Tech or another source by Jan. 1. If you’d prefer to take advantage of the national Health Insurance Marketplace providers, visit www.healthcare.gov.

✔ 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) Nov. 11-22 to make your 2014 benefits elections.

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

Learn More About the Affordable Care Act

The University System of Georgia (USG) intends to satisfy the affordability requirement under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). So, in general, employees who are eligible for health insurance through the USG will not be eligible for a tax credit in 2014 through the Health Insurance Marketplace (or Exchanges) created under the ACA. If you aren’t eligible for health insurance through the USG and would like more information about the Health Insurance Marketplace, visit www.healthcare.gov.

Save the Date: Nov. 6 Benefits Fair

The annual Benefits Fair will be held on Nov. 6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom. The event will feature vendors, including Blue Cross Blue Shield, Kaiser, Delta Dental, Minnesota Life, Legal Club of America, and EyeMed.

Don’t Pay a Price for Not Smoking

Did you know that you could end up paying a $50 non-refundable monthly surcharge for being a smoker—even if you’re not? If you are a nontobacco user who doesn’t certify your status in TechWorks during open enrollment, you will default to being a tobacco user and will be charged the monthly tobacco surcharge until the information is corrected.

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France-Atlanta Begins Oct. 23

GEORGIA TECH-LOURNAINE

For the fourth consecutive year, the Georgia Tech community is about to get a taste of French culture and experience innovative examples of Franco-American collaboration in business, scientific, cultural, and humanitarian endeavors.

From Oct. 23 through Nov. 9, the Consulate General of France in Atlanta and Georgia Tech will host the two-week event, France-Atlanta Together Toward Innovation 2013.

“It is gratifying to see how France-Atlanta has stimulated dialogue, idea exchange, and collaborative actions between France and the United States,” said Denis Barbet, consul general of France.

Nine France-Atlanta events will take place on and off campus and many will be open to the public, including:

- Concert: Sonic Generator and the Orchestre des Vosges Oct. 1, 2013, 8 p.m., Reinsch-Pierce Family Auditorium, College of Architecture
- Lecture: Political and Cultural Expression in the Public Spaces of Paris (and Atlanta) Oct. 6, 6 p.m., Reinsch-Pierce Family Auditorium, College of Architecture
- Nine France-Atlanta events will take place on the Tech campus.

Board of Regents Approves Renovation Funding

GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

During its monthly meeting Oct. 8-9, the Board of Regents (BOR) approved an amendment to the fiscal year 2015 Capital Budget Request to include $1.7 million in design funds to support the comprehensive renewal of Price Gilbert-Crosland Tower.

The BOR also authorized a budget modification for the renovation of the Caddell Building, which increases the project budget from $2.5 million to $3.3 million. Also, a design firm was appointed to complete the renovation of the Boggs Chemistry Building.

In other meeting news, the board approved President G.P. "Bud" Peterson’s request to award an honorary degree to Rodney Adams, senior vice president of corporate strategy for IBM.

For the full meeting agenda, visit http://c.gatech.edu/1eaWLfl

2013 GTPD Safety Report Now Available

GEORGIA TECH POLICE DEPARTMENT

If you’ve ever wondered what types of crimes occurred on campus over the past three years — and what the Georgia Tech Police Department (GTPD) is doing to keep the community safe — there’s an annual report you’ll want to check out.

“The 2013 Campus Safety Report is a helpful resource for all of our campus community members,” said Chief Teresa Crocker. “This publication highlights how Tech and our partners on and off campus are making maintaining a safe campus a team effort.”

The brochure is prepared with help from local law enforcement agencies, the Office of Student Integrity, the Women’s Resource Center, Housing, and Residence Life.

Information from 2010-2012 related to the number of crimes such as sex offenses, burglaries, motor vehicle theft, and robberies is included in the report.

Download the report at http://c.gatech.edu/1FmFdPu