Address Highlights Tech’s ‘Positive Momentum’

AMELIA PAVLIK INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

From President Barack Obama mentioning Georgia Tech’s new online Master’s Degree in Computer Science in a speech in Buffalo, N.Y., to Nick Selby’s Convocation speech going viral, Georgia Tech seems to be on the tip of everyone’s tongue lately.

These are just two examples of Tech’s “positive momentum” that President G.P. “Bud” Peterson mentioned during his annual Institute Address last Thursday.

“When we launched our strategic plan three years ago, we introduced an ambitious vision — we wanted ‘What does Georgia Tech think?’ to be a common question asked by those in research, business, the media, and government,” he said.

“Initially, I didn’t think it fit Tech’s style, but I’ve come to realize that those five words summarize our potential impact.”

The teaching of massive open online courses (MOOCs) is one area where Tech has shown thought leadership.

“We started offering MOOCs a year ago, and so far, we’ve had more than 400,000 students enroll in 14 courses,” Peterson said.

He added that students studying on campus are also benefiting from the MOOCs. For example, many faculty members are embracing the flipped classroom model where lectures are provided online and class time is reserved for discussion and activities.

Tech also continues to become a more recognized university police departments in the country that are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).

To make this happen, we had to show compliance with 480 standards set forth by CALEA,” said GTPD Chief Teresa Crocker. “It’s an honor to be recognized by such a prestigious organization, but attaining this accreditation is one of several steps along our path to pursuing professional excellence.”

The GTPD was recently recognized by CALEA leadership for completing the organization’s rigorous accreditation process.

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Top 5 Things to Know About FERPA

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

If a parent contacted you about his student’s grades, would you know how to handle the situation?

“Student education records are protected under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act — known to most as FERPA,” said Georgia Tech Registrar Reta Pikowsky. "Taking a moment to familiarize yourself with this legislation can go a long way in helping you, and the Institute, avoid problems down the road.”

Here are the top five things that every faculty and staff member should know about this federal law:

• FERPA gives students rights. Under the law, students have the right to inspect and review their education records; to request an amendment to their records if they think something is inaccurate or misleading; to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in their records; and to file a

GTPD Earns Prestigious Law Enforcement Accreditation

AMELIA PAVLIK INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

The Georgia Tech Police Department (GTPD) recently joined the ranks of a select group of 59 college and university police departments in the country that are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).

“Make this happen, we had to show compliance...”

For more details about Georgia Tech’s Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) policy, visit http://c.gatech.edu/7mocyM.

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FERPA, continued on page 2

GTPD, continued on page 3
CULTURE & EVENTS

TRADE FAIRS & EXHIBITIONS

September 4

The 2013 Petit Institute Distinguished Lecture will feature Thomas Cech of the University of Colorado Boulder. Cech will speak on “The RNA World: Ribozymes to Long Noncoding RNAs” at 11 a.m. in the WSB Auditorium, Suite 215. To register, go to http://c.gatech.edu/14qD20k.

September 9


September 16


September 18

This Be Well event will feature information about oral health and MetLife dental benefits. The seminar will be held from 12:15 to 1 p.m. Location TBD. Register at http://c.gatech.edu/1zdPA.

TRAINEE

September 12

Defensive driving training will be offered from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Room 240, Campus Recreation Center. Register at trains.gatech.edu.

MISCELLANEOUS

September 4

The Student Center will host a free screening of The Internship on Tech Green. Activities will begin at 7 p.m., with the movie beginning at 9 p.m. In the event of rain, the movie will be shown in the Student Center Theater. http://c.gatech.edu/10J4G0w.

Events continued on page 3

Campus News

AT&T Joins Tech, Midtown Innovation Scene

RICK ROBINSON

RESEARCH COMMUNICATIONS

Last Tuesday, AT&T Inc. opened its product development center, the AT&T Foundry, in Tech Square.

The Foundry connects AT&T to Georgia Tech’s students, research program, and dozens of early stage tech companies being incubated through the Advanced Technology Development Center (ATDC), VentureLab, and Flashpoint initiatives.

Moreover, AT&T’s new location places it close to Tech’s many-faculty-student research teams, as well as a variety of business and startup support groups located in Midtown Atlanta. And the Foundry is just a few floors away from other major multinational companies.

AT&T has partnered with Centergy building neighbors include the Panasonic Innovation Center and the ThysenKrupp Elevator Americas innovation facility.

AT&T’s Hosted Solutions Group is headquartered a block away at the Biltmore. “When we locate a Foundry facility, our number one criterion is to be part of an ecosystem that fosters innovation — which usually occurs at the intersection of premier education, high technology, and an entrepreneurial mindset — and those are all things that we found at Technology Square,” said Ralph de la Vega, president and CEO of AT&T Mobility. “When I saw the startup community incubators, the entrepreneurs, and the high-quality technical people from Georgia Tech who are driving them, I knew this is where we needed to be.”

COLLABORATIVE ENVIRONMENTS

In addition to Tech, the Foundry is collaborat- ing with Cisco Systems Inc. Working with Cisco, AT&T will concentrate on developing products for Digital Life, AT&T’s home security and automation service. The team will also create new applications and services related to focus areas such as the connected car, mobility, emerging devices, and AT&T TV. Apart from collaborating with AT&T on projects, Cisco will also help identify key third-party developers, startups, investors, inventors, and other entrepreneurs to bring into the facility.

AT&T’s interest in coming to Tech Square was supported by Tech outreach efforts aimed at helping potential partners with insight and ease of access to the innovations, new technologies, and startup ventures developed and supported by the Institute. Greg King of Tech’s Strategic Partners office worked with AT&T as it examined the Tech and Atlanta environment.

When you look at everything we’re doing at the intersection of people and technology, the startup community, and exciting faculty and student innovation — a Technology Square location was a great choice for AT&T, as it has been for other partners like NCR, Panasonic, and ThysenKrupp,” King said.

Making Tech accessible to potential industry partners is a top priority, said Stephen E. Cross, executive vice president for Research. The Institute’s expanded outreach toward industry — which organizes more than 200 research centers and laboratories into 12 core research areas — helps make Tech more accessible and understandable.

Read the full article at http://c.gatech.edu/14D3jxk

FERPA, continued from page 1

FERPA complaint with the Department of Education regarding FERPA noncompliance.

Each institution is unique. Colleges and universities have not implemented FERPA in the same way. For example, under FERPA, institutions are allowed to have their own definition of “directory information.” What is considered “directory” or “public” information at one institution can be different at another.

Certain student information should never be shared. At Tech, there are some kinds of information you should never provide without student permission including student ID numbers, citizenship, gender, ethnicity, religious preferences, grades, GPAs, and daily class schedules. Since these things are not defined as “directory information” at Tech they can’t be shared without permission.

Records are protected from the get-go. This means student records are protected by FERPA as soon as an admitted student registers for classes, and under Tech policy, as soon as a student applies for admission.

When in doubt, don’t give it out. If you have FERPA questions or concerns, contact Pikowsky’s office at 404-894-4181.

Address submitted from page 1

Established innovation hub. Last week, the AT&T Foundry (see the article above) opened in Tech Square — which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. Additionally, Peterson mentioned that this year, Tech’s Advanced Technology Development Center was ranked by Forbes as one of 12 business incubators that are changing the world.

As another way to engage students and faculty in the innovation process, the Institute has launched TechStar, the world’s first peer-reviewed, university-based, crowd funding platform for science and engineering research projects.

During the address, Peterson also touched on the following:

• As part of the Arts@Tech initiative, campus is currently hosting the 15-piece international sculpture exhibition Engineered Art.

• Tech is in the midst of its 10-year reaffirmation process by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. (For more information, stay tuned for a future Whistle article.)

• A Strategic Plan Advisory Group has been created to provide advice and recommendations to Institute leadership regarding the continued implementation of the plan.

• Peterson closed the address by unveiling Tech’s latest public service announcement — which features a portion of Selby’s Convocation speech.

To read the speech in its entirety or watch footage of the address, visit www.gatech.edu/ president.
Institute Sets 80 Percent Grad Rate Goal

In a recent progress update to the University System of Georgia (USG), Tech reported that the Institute is supporting the goals outlined in its Complete College Georgia campus plan, which includes increasing student retention and improving graduation rates.

The overall goal of Tech's plan is to reach and consistently maintain an 80 percent, six-year graduation rate before gradually increasing this rate to 84 percent, which is the mean rate of Tech's peer institutions.

“Georgia Tech has one of the highest six-year graduation rates in the state,” said Sandi Bramblett, executive director, Institutional Research and Planning, and co-chair of Tech's Complete College Georgia Steering Committee. “For the 20 percent of students who don’t graduate, we want to know their reasons for leaving, particularly those who left in good academic standing.”

In August 2011, Governor Nathan Deal announced the Complete College Georgia initiative, challenging the USG and the Technical College System of Georgia to develop plans for increasing the number of postsecondary graduates.

In Georgia, 42 percent of the population holds some type of college degree. The governor wants to raise that number to 60 percent by 2020, which will require the state’s public and private colleges to add 250,000 college graduates by 2020.

In 2012, each campus developed its own strategy and goals to increase retention.

For Tech, that includes:

- Promoting the Complete College Georgia plan to the campus community.
- Establishing a steering committee to oversee the plan’s implementation.
- Transferring oversight for the coordination of undergraduate academic advising to the Center for Academic Success.
- Allocating new financial resources to support priorities.
- Creating a comprehensive intervention plan for students who are academically at risk.
- Enhancing programs targeting retention of underrepresented students.
- Conducting research studies on retention and graduation.

The Office of Assessment, the Office of Undergraduate Education, Enrollment Services, and Institutional Research and Planning took the lead on several research studies in the past year, including a Spring 2013 survey of nonreturning students.

The target population for the survey was students who were eligible to enroll — in good standing or on academic warning/probation — but who have been absent for at least two consecutive semesters. Tech contacted the students to assess their current status (e.g., employed, enrolled elsewhere, etc.), reasons for leaving Tech, and intentions to return to Tech.

Of those who completed the survey, approximately 40 (34 percent of the respondents) indicated they would like to discuss options for re-enrollment.

Tech’s Vice Provost for Enrollment Services, Paul Kohn is coordinating students to determine what can be done to support their progression toward obtaining their undergraduate degrees.

Last spring, Tech’s Office of Assessment also conducted a small pilot study with four focus groups of graduating seniors to explore time-to-degree completion factors and potential hindrances to graduation.

Ultimately, we want to come up with intervention strategies and propose resources available to help students graduate,” said Steven Girardot, associate vice provost for Undergraduate Education, and co-chair of Tech’s Complete College Georgia Steering Committee. Girardot and Bramblett both emphasized that retention is a comprehensive and collaborative effort among many offices.

In early October, the USG will submit the status reports from all universities and colleges to the Governor’s Office, and the reports will be available to the public.

As part of the Complete College Georgia initiative, each state college and university has developed its own strategy and goals to increase retention.

Buzzworthy Achievements

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

- Russell Dean Dupuis, professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, received a Humboldt Research Award.
- Christiana Paredis, associate professor in the School of Mechanical Engineering, will lead the Model-Based Systems Engineering Center at Georgia Tech.
- Stephanie Jackson, assistant director of Undergraduate Advising and Professional Development in the School of International Affairs, received a U.K. Fulbright International Education Administrators Award.
- Chaffee Viets, director of special scholarship programs in Enrollment Services, was elected president of the Undergraduate Scholars Program Administrators Association.
- Gilda Barabino, professor and associate chair for Graduate Studies in the Couter Department of Biomedical Engineering, was chosen to be a Top Woman Professor at an Affordable College by Affordable Colleges Online.
- Pete Ludovice, associate professor in the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, is the new director of the Office of Undergraduate Education in the Center for Academic Enrichment.
- Eric Gaucher, associate professor in the School of Biology, was selected to receive a 2013 DuPont Young Professor Award.
- Greg King, a strategic partners officer in the Enterprise Innovation Institute, received a Fulbright International Education Administrators Award to attend seminars in Germany.

For more information, contact Crocker at teresa.crocker@police.gatech.edu.

GTPD, continued from page 1

CALEA was created in 1979 as a national credentialing authority when several law enforcement agencies, including the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the National Sheriffs’ Association, decided to join forces.

To earn the accreditation, which is valid for three years, GTPD had to demonstrate compliance with CALEA standards including those related to crime prevention and community development, criminal investigations, and critical incidents.

“One of the main reasons we participated in this process is that it enabled us to develop a comprehensive set of written directives for GTPD,” Crocker said. “But it also helped us strengthen the department’s accountability.

For more information, contact Crocker at teresa.crocker@police.gatech.edu.

www.police.gatech.edu

www.gatech.edu/calendar

GTPD, continued from page 1

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www.police.gatech.edu
ChBE’s Eckert Graduates 100th Ph.D. Student

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Mentor Jackets Program Pairs Alumni with Students

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Five years ago, about 50 students were matched with Tech alumni as part of a mentorship program. Last year, that number grew to 1,200, and the Student Alumni Association hopes more students and alumni — especially faculty and staff alumni — will take advantage of the opportunity to forge these relationships.

Rich Steele, alumnius and senior director of Auxiliary Services, has been a mentor for five years and can’t imagine a better way to help students than by serving as a resource to help them achieve all that is possible in their college career and beyond.

“I have really enjoyed helping students tweak resumes, prepare for interviews, and take advantage of campus resources,” Steele added. “My experience working at Tech has enabled me to offer a perspective about faculty ranks to become department head. Collaboration across departments was a big no-no at this institution, which was a problem, because I thrive on this sort of interaction. I met Charlie 30 years ago when we were both consulting for DuPont, and we felt that if we could ever collaborate, we could do a lot more. When I met Ron Rousseau, the former department chair, in the late 1980s, he asked me to come work with him and collaborate with Charlie. At the time, Tech was one of the few institutions that supported collaboration. It was like coming to heaven.

Tell us about your research.

Our group’s research is focused on the interface between chemistry and chemical engineering, where our interdisciplinary investigators have unique capabilities to solve a variety of important technical and societal problems, such as environmental control and energy conservation. Examples of applications include wastewater purification and hazardous waste detoxification.

What is an average day like for you?

Each week, I teach a graduate-level thermodynamics course. I also spend time assisting with the logistics of an introductory class for new graduate students that I co-created with Professor Dennis Hess to prepare them for doing research. For example, we cover how to critique a paper and give a presentation. Although I’m no longer taking on new Ph.D. students, I also spend time in the lab working with the students that Charlie and I currently mentor.

What do you think of massive online open courses (MOOCs)?

To be honest, I’m too near the end of my career to invest the time in creating a MOOC and teaching it. Also, I’m not sure how a chemical engineering course could effectively be taught in this format. Not only does lab work become challenging, but it’s tough to

The Whistle - Community News

In June, Charles “Chuck” Eckert celebrated a milestone in his teaching career — he graduated his 100th Ph.D. student, Jackson Switzer.

“The best part of teaching has always been the students,” said Eckert, who is Professor and J. Erskine Love Jr. Institute Chair in Engineering in the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering (ChBE). “I get such a kick out of receiving emails from former students who are now professors, telling me where they are and what they are doing.”

And just because Eckert hit 100, doesn’t mean he’s retiring. There are more students in the pipeline. The lab that Eckert runs with Charles Liotta, Regents Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, is currently home to about nine post doctoral students, six graduate students, and nine undergraduate students.

“Whether it’s in the lab or classroom, I try to give my students permission to be wrong — I want them to be OK with making mistakes and learning from them,” Eckert said. “I want to give them that confidence to challenge me when they think I might be wrong.”

Recently, The Whistle had a chance to learn more about Eckert and his time at Georgia Tech.

What brought you to Tech?

Before Tech, I spent 24 years at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where I worked my way up through the

Rich Steel, alumnus and senior director of Auxiliary Services, is just one of the Tech faculty and staff members involved with the Mentor Jackets program.

campus life that mentees seem to truly value.”

The program pairs students with alumni for mentoring, networking, and building relationships with others in the Tech community. The time commitment is usually two to three hours each month. Learn more about the program at

www.gmentorjackets.com

Prep Now for Emergencies

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

September is National Preparedness Month, and the Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP) is offering the following opportunities to help you prepare:

• Sign up for the Georgia Tech Emergency Notification System through Passport at https://passport.gatech.edu

• Register for Campus Emergency Response Team training, which kicks off on Sept. 17, at www.trams.gatech.edu

• Download the new Tech in Case of Crisis app for your phone at http://c.gatech.edu/r14h5zxm. And take a moment to like OEP on Facebook (http://c.gatech.edu/TMgC2n) to support it as the office competes against the University of Georgia for the most likes. Learn more about the contest at http://c.gatech.edu/1dkR8N

REAL ESTATE/ ROOMMATES

Beautiful 5BR/3.5BA, 4,200 sq. ft. house for rent in a swim/bowls community, 20 minutes to Tech, five minutes to Silver Comet Trail. Large private backyard, lake view, basement, sunroom, and covered deck. Email rishan@gatech.edu or call 404-291-5785.

2BR/2BA condo for sale just off Howell Mill Road. Great for couple who wants to live close to Georgia Tech. Great price! Knock on wall parking. Available now. $5K discount for Tech employees/students without agent. Email carol@kenmemons.net.

Homemaker looking for graduate student to rent in fully furnished house in Berkley Park, less than three miles from Tech, Ferber will have own BR and BA, $500/mo. Call 404-274-5901.

Lovely, 1,050 sq. ft. 2BR/1BA garden apartment with enclosed yard and parking for rent. Off-street parking. Waiting distance to Piedmont Park and the High Museum. Available now. Call 404-386-1400.

For rent: 3BR/3BA bungalow; minutes to Tech. Rqual in nice neighborhood (NW ATL). HW floors (carpet in bedrooms), gas FP, central HD, dishwasher/oven/cherry kitchen, gas stove, DW, disposal, alarm system, fenced backyard. $1,075/mo. Call 404-577-3227.

3BR/farge bonus room/2.5BA 2,549 sq. ft. cui-de-sac house (quiet neighborhod) rents $1,250 or sells (less than $179,000), available Oct. 1. Customer-feedback is excellent. Contact is just this spacious house. Hardwood, neutral plush carpet, privacy-fenced backyard and laundry on m. Only 17 miles from Tech (off I-20). Call 404-384-5571.

MISCELLANEOUS

Moving sale: 2-year-old REA queen-size mattress in good condition, $100. Rarely used stand-up mixer, $30. Old, but still working, juicer, $45.060. Other miscellaneous items like wireless router, DSL modem, PC speakers, webcam, and PC keyboard. Email jroj098@yahoo.com.

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 404-385-1854 for more information.


Orion Skyquest XT6 Dobsonian Reflector Telescope with stand and case. Asking $350. Pretty, six-drawer, wood vanity and mirror. $160. Photo on request. Contact 404-892-7802 or ccooB@gmail.com.


Ad run for all but three issues in the order in which they are received. Submit your 35-word ad to Junior Liotta at editor@comm.gatech.edu.

www.whistle.gatech.edu