Children’s Campus Offers Ga. Pre-K Program

AMELIA PAVLIK
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Life just got a little easier for Carole-Anne Whitehurst.

She is one of the first Georgia Tech employees to enroll her son, Nathan, in the new Georgia Pre-K program at The Children’s Campus @ Georgia Tech. “I appreciate that The Children’s Campus @ Georgia Tech is able to offer my child high-quality instruction at a reasonable cost, thanks to the Georgia Lottery funding,” said Whitehurst, an administrative professional at Georgia Tech Research Institute. “My husband — who also works at Tech — and I like the fact that the school is on campus, as it allows us to eat lunch with our son and participate in his day.”

The Children's Campus began offering the lottery-funded program this fall — and members of the campus community are being given priority when it comes to enrollment. The only costs to parents are for meals and any before- or after-school care provided.

Children who are 4 years of age on Sept. 1 of the current school year (who are Georgia residents) are eligible to attend Georgia’s Pre-K Program during this school year.

There are still spaces available in the first pre-K class offered at The Children’s Campus @ Georgia Tech. “We were so pleased to be granted funding from the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning to offer the pre-K program here on campus,” said Steve

Board of Regents Approves Voluntary Benefits Changes

GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

During its monthly meeting on Sept. 11, the Board of Regents (BOR) approved a system-wide approach to voluntary benefits.

Starting in January 2014, all University System of Georgia (USG) colleges and universities will offer the same voluntary benefits, which include supplemental life insurance, dental, vision, short- and long-term disability, and flexible spending and health savings accounts.

In addition, institutions will be able to offer other ancillary benefits not provided by the board, for Georgia Tech, that means we will continue to offer our group legal plan through ARAG and our critical illness and permanent whole life plans.

Currently, each institution offers its own selection of these benefits. According to the section of the meeting agenda about the changes (available on pages 22-33 at http://c.gatech.edu/15nbP7t), the new approach is meant to provide equal coverage for all USG employees and to eliminate redundancies and unnecessary costs.

The Office of Human Resources will communicate more details about these voluntary benefits and open enrollment for 2014 in the weeks to come. This year’s
When Campaign Georgia Tech began its quiet phase on July 1, 2004, three and a half years had passed since the successful conclusion of the previous capital campaign.

That five-year effort raised nearly three-quarters of a billion dollars in gifts and commitments, surpassing the original goal of $300 million and multiple revised goals, and finally closing at $712 million. At the time, it was the most successful campaign in the Institute's history, measured not only in dollars but also in terms of physical spaces (Technology Square, the four-building Biotechnology Complex, the Klaus Advanced Computing Building, and the Campus Recreation Center).

Add to that hundreds of newly endowed undergraduate scholarships and graduate fellowships, as well as 34 new endowed chairs and professorships. In five short years, the campaign had played a critical role in Georgia Tech’s transformation.

Fast Forward

What a difference a decade makes. The current campaign started with a goal of $1 billion — the highest in school history — and was originally scheduled to end in 2010. But a change in Institute leadership in 2009 brought with it a new strategic plan and a corresponding roadmap for philanthropy. President G.P. “Bud” Peterson, along with his leadership team and members of the campaign steering committee, decided to extend Campaign Georgia Tech through Dec. 31, 2013, and to raise the goal to $1.5 billion.

Where do things stand with less than two and a half years remaining? As of the close of fiscal year 2013, the campaign has generated $1.248 billion in gifts, multiyear pledges, and testamentary commitments. In addition:

- Of that total, $470 million has been directed to permanent endowments. $282 million to facilities construction and renovations and equipment, and $488 million to current operations.
- Alumni continue to be the primary source of philanthropy, with $570 million, followed by corporations at $348 million, and foundations at $150 million.

- $158 million has been raised for intercollegiate athletics.
- The G. Wayne Clough Georgia Tech Promise scholarship program has received $41 million in endowments toward a $50 million goal.
- Two academic programs have been named: the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering and the Ernest Scheller College of Business.

Led by co-chairs Mary and John Brock, Campaign Georgia Tech is closely aligned to the strategic plan. It’s focused on securing resources for the strategic priorities that will enable Tech to define the technological research university of the 21st century. According to Tech’s Vice President for Development Barrett H. Carson, the campaign is fully on track for success on or before Dec. 31, 2015, “but opportunities and challenges still exist in these final 28 months. Our opportunities become our challenges as time begins to close in. While we can celebrate our accomplishment of endowing 74 new faculty chairs and professorships, for example, I see the 26 that remain to be funded to get to our goal of 100.” He added, “The math is easier than the fundraising in this case.”

Carson also noted the accomplishments to date in the area of facilities construction and renovation.

“The campaign is providing critical philanthropy — the Marcus Nanotechnology Building, Clough Commons, the Hall Building, the Caldwell Building, the Ken Byers Tennis Complex, and the last goes on,” he said. “But I see the facilities that remain. Most critically, the Engineered Biosystems Building, among a number of others.”

The public launch of Campaign Georgia Tech took place in the fall of 2010, followed by a series of roll out events regionally, nationally, and in select cities internationally, announcing the campaign and engaging thousands of alumni. Today, with just more than two years remaining, Development, alumni, and Institute leadership are stepping up efforts to educate the entire Georgia Tech community — in Atlanta and around the world — about the profound impact of philanthropy. For more information about Campaign Georgia Tech, visit http://c.gatech.edu/12ulFzA
**Campus News**

**IRI Intros: 3 Questions with Bob McGrath**

**RESEARCH COMMUNICATIONS**

You probably have heard that Georgia Tech has Interdisciplinary Research Institutes (IRIs) — but do you know much about them?

This article is part of a series to introduce the IRIs and their directors. In this issue, Senior Vice President and Director of the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) Bob McGrath answers a few questions.

**What is GTRI, and what are its core research areas?**

Founded as the Engineering Experiment Station in 1934, GTRI has grown to become a highly regarded applied R&D organization, serving as a reliable and trusted partner for defense agencies, national security organizations, and a variety of industry sponsors. Of Tech’s $655 million in sponsored research awards in fiscal year 2013, GTRI generated $305 million.

GTRI’s team of more than 1,700 employees (including several hundred undergraduates and graduate students) tackles our customers’ most complex challenges in electronics, electro-optics, antennas, radars, sensors, signal processing and other electromagnetics systems; in cybersecurity, information and communications technologies; in robotics, unmanned vehicles, and autonomous systems; in system testing and evaluation, modeling and simulation, and systems engineering; and in advanced technologies for education, health systems, and agriculture.

**What is unique about the defense and national security communities at Tech?**

Georgia Tech has a long tradition of providing timely and cost-effective solutions to complex technological and information security problems facing our country.

We are a world-recognized leader in radar systems and electronic warfare technologies for the Air Force, the Navy, Marine Corps, and Army. For example, as aircraft age, GTRI serves as a resource the U.S. military can depend on to develop and deploy upgrades to existing electronic systems.

Our approach to these and all of our missions is very unique in that GTRI partners across Tech, working closely with the Colleges of Engineering, Science, Computing, Business, Architecture, and the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts. Together, we have realized successful results that have contributed to important missions for defense, energy, manufacturing, national security, education, and associated public policies.

**“Of Tech’s $655 million in sponsored research awards in fiscal year 2013, GTRI generated $305 million.”**

There has been a lot of discussion around the impact of sequestration on Department of Defense (DOD) and other federal agency budgets. Can you address the trends and how they might affect GTRI?

It’s no secret that the mandatory federal spending cuts known as sequestration are impacting U.S. government funding for R&D. At times like these, we are very well served by Tech’s reputation for technical excellence and GTRI’s reputation for providing reliable, cost-effective solutions.

Within the DOD, while continued downward pressure on overall funding is expected, the complexity and scope of defense and national security mission requirements will continue to increase. Consequently, the DOD will likely need to extend lifetimes and expand capabilities of existing aircraft, ships, and vehicles, and GTRI is exceptionally well positioned to assist with these missions.

So while it’s only prudent that we make contingency plans in case of a decrease in funding, we have, so far, been able to maintain — and even continue to develop — our sponsored R&D programs and our associated research workforce.

Bob McGrath joined the Georgia Tech Research Institute as senior vice president and director in 2011.

The Quality Enhancement Plan is the part of the compliance certification that most directly involves faculty. Murray-Rust said.

“Facility need to be engaged in determining the best project and creating the plan that generates wide impact on campus, including assessment and programmatic support.”

**SACS Reaffirmation at Tech Now Underway**

**VICTOR ROGERS**

**INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS**

A group of faculty and staff spent part of their summer working on an important initiative that comes around every 10 years: the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) reaffirmation.

Reaffirmation is the process by which Georgia Tech must prove to a review team from peer institutions, via the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), that the Institute is qualified to continue to award academic credit. SACSCOC, the regional body for the accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions in the nation’s southern states, works closely with the U.S. Department of Education.

The formal kickoff for the 10-year reaffirmation process took place in June 2013. The process will continue through the end of 2015, with Tech’s onsite visit scheduled for March 2015.

“This is an important process through which we review our policies, procedures, and programs in compliance certification,” said Catherine Murray-Rust, vice provost for Learning Excellence, dean of Libraries, and Tech’s SACS Accreditation Liaison.

By September 2014, Tech will provide a self-study of its compliance — 95 core requirements and principles — encompassing the spectrum of activities on campus. The gathering of this information will require time and effort on the part of hundreds of people campuswide, and will be managed by a Compliance Steering Committee of campus administrators. During last month’s Institute Address, President G. P. “Bud” Peterson thanked faculty and staff in advance for their engagement in the project.

The compliance certification is an opportunity for Tech to identify institutional weaknesses or problems and correct them, Murray-Rust said.

“I view the compliance part of this process, at best, like moving from one house to another. It takes a tremendous amount of work, and if you do it well, you recalibrate your life and your belongings.”

**September 20-21**

Georgia Tech will host its annual Family Weekend festivities for families and friends of the Institute, all day, both days. For details, visit www.familyweekend.gatech.edu.

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

**EVENTS**

**September 27**

The Office of Human Resources will offer training on “ Welcoming Diversity in the Workplace: Prejudice Reduction” from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Piedmont Room, Student Center Commons. Register at trainings.gatech.edu

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**September 18**

The Georgia Tech Faculty Women’s Club invites female faculty members and faculty wives to its annual open house and lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Presidential Success Center. For more information, visit www.gfwt.gatech.edu

**September 19**

Tech’s Student Center and Dining Services have partnered to bring local, sustainable food to campus. Stock up 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

**Web Classifieds**

**Classifieds continued on page 4**

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AMELIA PAVLIK   INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

**Community News**

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**The Man Behind Georgia Tech's Whistle**

**AMELIA PAVLIK**

“Don’t ever touch that whistle.” These are the words that Harold Cash has lived by since he arrived at Georgia Tech about 18 years ago.

“Whenever I was hired to oversee the power plant on campus, I remember my supervisor telling me that the only thing I needed to remember was not to lay a finger on that whistle,” said Cash, manager of the Holland Power Plant. “And that’s one of the best pieces of advice I’ve ever received.”

Of course, he does regularly check the whistle’s clock against the time at the Naval Observatory in Washington, D.C., to ensure that it blows at five minutes before every hour between 7:55 a.m. and 5:55 p.m., Monday through Friday.

And occasionally, the whistle needs to be repaired. For example, in 2002, the bell cracked during afootball game. Unfortunately, Cash had to use his last spare part — and parts for steam whistles aren’t easy to come by.

Cash set out to find a backup whistle that could be used if something happened to the repaired version. One day, while taking a walking tour of Tech’s campus, he noticed a battered Tech whistle from the 1900s on display.

“I thought, ‘You know, that is as close to the original Tech whistle as you can get.’” Cash said. “We don’t want to change the tradition or the sound or anything — we want to have a whistle people are used to.”

He teamed up with Dennis Brown, the Research Institute’s Machine Services Department, to create the replacement.

“Now, if something happens to our whistle, we are able to re-create an authentic replica — thanks to Dennis and his team,” Cash added.

**Keeping Campus Comfortable**

But ensuring that the whistle on campus is only one part of Cash’s job, which also involves ensuring that buildings across campus stay warm or cool.

Before he arrived at Tech, Cash worked in heating and cooling at what is now the Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel for 20 years, starting as a hoist operator and leaving as a chief engineer.

“I remember it was just before the Olympics, and the hotel was being sold again — I realized it was time to move on,” he said. “I was offered my job at Tech, and 18 years later, I’m still here.”

The Holland Plant began operating in 1917, and the hoist room was first upgraded in 1952. According to Cash, the number one and number two units in the room (installed in 1952) are still functioning.

These days, most of his time is spent in the office taking care of the paperwork that accompanies managerial work. At the moment, the plant is undergoing a system equipment upgrade, which also requires a lot of attention. It’s the only other upgrade that has occurred other than the one in 1952 and one in the 1980s.

“It’s funny because a lot of people don’t know what the plant is for — people don’t think about heating and air until they don’t have it,” Cash said.

**Simple Pleasures**

During the week, Cash spends much of his time off campus getting to campus from his home, which is north of Cartersville.

“It’s about 53 miles each way, but I don’t mind,” he said. “I spend a lot of my time off campus and enjoy it a lot.”

When he’s not at Tech, Cash can be found working with a Boy Scout troop at a church (which he’s assisted for 20 years), mowing grass at his home, or shooting skeet.

“If you have a good job and a good life,” Cash said. “For that, I’m thankful.”

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**Download New Emergency Preparedness App**

**OFFICE OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

Fire. Severe weather. You can’t predict when an emergency will occur on campus — but when it does, you’ll need to know who to call and what to do.

That’s why a new app from Georgia Tech Police Department’s Office of Emergency Preparedness is so handy.

“Everyone seems to be carrying a smartphone of some kind,” said Andy Altizer, director of Emergency Preparedness. “With this app, it’s simple to have emergency plans at your fingertips.”

The free In Case of Crisis app (education version) is available for both Apple and Android devices and provides Institute procedures for situations including:

- Bomb threats.
- Chemical spills.
- Fires.
- A shooter on campus.
- Tornado warning.

The app also features a list of emergency contact information, a flashlight, and an emergency siren. Another convenient feature is that the crisis plans download directly to your device, which means that you can still access information without an Internet connection.

“We don’t expect people to carry a clipboard with them — but it would be nice for them to have it on their phone,” Altizer added.

Apple users can go to [http://c.gatech.edu/1e9Ol0j](http://c.gatech.edu/1e9Ol0j) to download the app. Droid users can download it at [http://c.gatech.edu/1e9Os6](http://c.gatech.edu/1e9Os6).

When you launch the app, click on the “+” in the right corner and select “Georgia Institute of Technology.”

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**Laguna Takes Helm at School of Physics**

**COLLEGE OF SCIENCES**

In August, Professor Pablo Laguna was named the new chair of the School of Physics.

“I am looking forward to the opportunity to partner with my faculty, students, and postdocs to make our school an even more prominent center for scientific discovery, innovation, and education,” Laguna said. “We have a terrific team of faculty who are engaged in research that expands the frontiers of physics.”

Born in Mexico, in the state of San Luis Potosi, Laguna received his bachelor’s degree in physics from Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana-Iztapalapa in Mexico City. He earned his doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin in 1987. He’s been at Georgia Tech since 2008 and is the director of the Center for Relativistic Astrophysics.

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**REAL ESTATE/ ROOMMATES**

**BEAUTIFUL 3BR/2BA, 4,200 sq. ft. house fronting on Piedmont community. 20 minutes to Tech, five minutes to Silver Comet Trail. Large private backyard, lake view, basement, sunroom, and crowed deck. Email rishansh@gatech.edu or call 404-291-5785.**

**2BR/2BA condo for sale just off Howell Mill Rd. Great for couple who wants to live close to Georgia Tech, walk to Tech with off-street parking. Available now. $155k discount for Tech employees/students without agent. Email cardosb@binnemans.net.**

Homeowner looking for graduate student to rent in fully furnished house in Berkeley Park, less than three miles from Tech. Renter will have own BR and BA. $550/mo. Call 404-274-5091.

**LOWLY, 1,500 sq. ft. 2BR/1BA garden apartment for rent off Piedmont Park for rent. Off-street parking. Walking distance to Piedmont Park and the High Tech office park. No fees. $1,400/mo. Email 5thhpradro@gmail.com.**

For rent: 3BR/2BA bungalow, minutes to Tech, quiet in-town neighborhood (NW ATL). HW floors (carpet in bedrooms), central HVAC, granite/kitchen/ chinese kitchen, gas stove, DW, disposal, alarm system, fenced back yard, WD connections, pets OK. $1,250/mo. Contact susanne.bock@gatech.edu.

**3BR/2BA large room 2/5BA 2.543 sq. ft. cui-de-sac house (quiet neighborhood) rents ($1,205) or sells (less than $179,000), available Oct. 1. Customer- driven, neutral plush carpet; privacy-fenced backyard; master and laundry on main. 3BR/2BA near Tech (less than 2 miles), $750/mo. Contact 404-384-5571.**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Moving sale: 2-year-old IKEAqueen-size mattress in good condition, $100. Rarely used stand-up mixer, $30. Old, but still working, juicer, $45. OBO. Other miscellaneous items like wireless router, ODL modern, PC speakers, webcam, and PC keyboard. Email joyojo89@yahoo.com.


Orion Skyquest XT6 Dobsonian Reflector Telescope with stand and case. Asking $350. Pretty, all-wood, very stylish and mirror, $75. Photo on request. Contact 404-465-7802 or coto6@gatech.edu.

Baltoni Pianopelle PS1500 digital con-solo pianos with bench, dark rosewood finish, more than 400 high-quality sounds (pianos, organs, strings, brass, bass, and percussion). Multi-track MIDI recorder and stand. Must-be-seen-to-belie-billion. $975. Email radam106@gmail.com.

Looking for partner(s) to join a guided climb of Mt. McKinley (Denali) during June or July 2014, interested? Contact jgfve@gmail.com.

Fancy chest of drawers with rounded-top doors closing over the top. Three drawers. Two large bottom drawers. Top of chest is beveled shaped. Furniture store asking $750 for both and up. $350 or make an offer. Call 678-429-4964 or email lynchpen@windstream.net.

Submit your 35-word-or-less ad to editor@comm.gatech.edu.