Boards and committees have been under way since the fall 2013 consensus on mental health on campus. The national average during the 2005-2009 academic years was 1:1,500. The Georgia Tech Counseling Center’s counselor/student ratio is much lower, according to Perez, who is the director of the Counseling Center and a Licensed Clinical Psychologist. He said an updated report would be issued at the end of this academic year.

The counseling center has added two new positions and issued salary adjustments to 11 staff members, filled four vacant counseling positions, and issued salary adjustments to an additional 11 staff members, filled four vacant counseling positions to support student mental health on campus. The group of students, faculty, and staff met over several months and issued their report in October 2013, followed by a deeper review of next steps through April 2014.

The report contained 11 recommendations that addressed staffing, programming, technology, and financial resources.

**COUNSELING CENTER**

Based on the recommendations, the Counseling Center has added two new full-time staff members, filled four vacant positions, and issued salary adjustments to raise current staff members to competitive market rates.

“IT’s great to be operating with a full staff again,” said Roberto Perez, director of the Counseling Center. The addition of counselors lowers the Georgia Tech Counseling Center’s counselor/student ratio closer to the national average of 1:1,500. The Technique editorial board also advocated for additional counseling resources in a September 2013 consensus.

One of the new staff psychologists will oversee the continued development and expansion of Tech’s recovery services, and the other will shepherd the establishment of a student wellness initiative driven by Georgia Tech students. The group of students, faculty, and staff met over several months and issued their report in October 2013, followed by a deeper review of next steps through April 2014.

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**WELLNESS INITIATIVE**

Several recommendations relate to the development of a student wellness initiative, an idea being further honed by Georgia Tech employees. The counseling center has added two new full-time staff members, filled four vacant positions, and issued salary adjustments to raise current staff members to competitive market rates.

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Weather Monitoring System Gives Intel during Stormy Situations

LISA GROVENSTEIN  
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

The familiar adage, “Everyone talks about the weather, but nobody ever seems to do anything about it,” may hold true for the general population, but for the Georgia Tech Police Department’s Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP), monitoring campus weather conditions is a year-round responsibility.

“At Georgia Tech, we’re really interested in the effects of various elements on our students and employees,” said Will Smith, Georgia Tech’s director of Emergency Preparedness. “We are aware of the many ways that the weather can impact the campus community and the safety and well-being of members of the campus community.”

To monitor for severe weather conditions threatening the campus community, Emergency Preparedness uses WeatherSentry, an Internet-based lightning detection and weather monitoring system that provides weather alerts tailored specifically to the geolocation of Georgia Tech’s Atlanta campus. According to Project Coordinator William Smith, WeatherSentry pulls information from the National Weather Service, so all warnings, watches, and advisories that specifically impact the campus generate an alert through the system. For example, text alerts are sent to OEP and GTPD command staff and watch commanders.

While public safety and other staff members depend on the service to monitor severe weather conditions, the system also provides a critical tool for those on campus who are responsible for outdoor events and other occasions that might be impacted by the weather.

“Monitoring lightning is an important function, particularly for major sporting events. WeatherSentry provides detailed alerts when lightning is detected within 15, 10, and 8 miles of the suburban area of the Georgia Tech campus, currently set at 1, 5, 10, and 8 miles, respectively. Alerts, sent via text and email, provide details on the range and direction of lightning from the center of campus.”

“For major events, we can provide timely alerts for access to organizers for receivers for lightning and approaches campus in the 15-, 10-, and 8-mile range,” said Smith.

The notification system is available to anyone on campus who is responsible for managing events or any member of the campus community who is interested in following severe weather conditions that might impact campus.

“Those who simply prefer knowing about ongoing weather updates, alerts are provided when lightning is detected within an 8-mile radius.”

“WeatherSentry updates are not intended to take the place of our siren warning system and the Georgia Tech Emergency Notification System (GTENS),” said Smith. GTENS allows students, faculty, and staff to receive time-sensitive emergency messages in the form of an email, voice mail, and text messages when there is an action required.

“Weather is no different from potential dangerous situations where everyone must take responsibility,” said Alitzer. “Staying alert to changing weather situations, and adhering to the old saying, ‘when thunder roars, go indoors,’ remains important even today’s technology.”

According to the National Weather Service, a typical lightning flash is about 300 million volts and about 30,000 amps. In comparison, household current is 120 volts and 15 amps.
**Campus News**

**Staff Wanted as Oxford Study Abroad Group Leaders**

MARGARET WRIGHT
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

As football season begins, leaves start to change, and the cooler weather arrives, summer may be more of a fading memory than a to-do-list item. But, every fall, Georgia Tech staff begin the application process to spend their summer on Georgia Tech’s Oxford Study Abroad Program.

This year, Georgia Tech staff members will also have the opportunity to apply for a role in the program that has been introducing Georgia Tech students to Europe for 20 years. The program allows students to take Georgia Tech classes while visiting major European cities, studying in the UK and expanding their global perspective.

Students, faculty, and staff pose in Salzburg, Austria, during the travel portion of the 2013 Oxford Study Abroad Program.

For more information, visit oxford.gatech.edu

**Emergency Preparedness Offers Response Training**

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

September is National Preparedness Month, and the Office of Emergency Preparedness acknowledges it by equipping campus with the knowledge needed in a crisis situation.

Faculty and staff, as well as students, can become members of the Campus Emergency Response Team (CERT) by participating in a series of training sessions throughout the fall.

“CERT is about readiness, people helping people, rescue, safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number,” said Frank Stanley, emergency preparedness program coordinator.

Participants will learn how to manage utilities and put out small fires; treat the “three killers” by opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating for shock; provide basic medical aid; search for and rescue victims safely; and organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers for effective emergency management.

“CERT is the preferred method because it is confidential, secure, and simple to use,” said Stanley, emergency preparedness program coordinator.

For more information and for instructions on signing up, contact Stanley at frank.stanley@ep.gatech.edu.

**2015 State Charitable Contributions Program**

This year’s Charitable Campaign fundraising season runs from Sept. 1 through Nov. 15. The campaign goal is to have 1,500 employees donate and to raise $330,000.

Donations can be made via payroll deduction at techworks.gatech.edu.

**FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS**

**Shatakshie Dhongde**, assistant professor in the School of Economics, has been named a research affiliate by the Institute of Research on Poverty, the nation’s original poverty research center and one of three National Poverty Research Centers sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

**Beth Mynatt**, executive director of the Institute for People and Technology, was named vice chair of the Computing Community Consortium. The organization was established by the Computing Research Association and National Science Foundation and helps put future computing research into motion.

**Jacqueline Royster**, dean of the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts, has been selected by the Alliance Française d’Atlanta as its 2014 Global Ambassador. The award recognizes local community leaders who have made a significant contribution to Atlanta through French language and culture or by being a global ambassador for the city.

This academic year, Georgia Tech welcomes about 100 new full-time tenure and nontenure-track academic faculty, who were recently convened at New Faculty Orientation. These latest additions to the Tech community come to campus from places as far away as Australia and as close as right here in Atlanta.
Racking up the Rankings

Georgia Tech has been recognized by numerous national rankings organizations during the past month. A few places that gave Tech kudos include:

#10
Sierra Club
Top 10 Cool Schools

Princeton Review
2015 Green Honor Roll

1 of 24
schools earning highest possible score of 99

Academic Ranking of World Universities

#6
for engineering

#19
for computer science

#23
for chemistry

#41
for math

#75
for business

#40
among all universities

Registration Open for Annual Kaiser Permanente Run/Walk

INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Each year, more than 16,000 people gather downtown for the culmination of a weekend-long health and fitness program at the Kaiser Permanente Corporate Run/Walk.

The event is designed to get employees at companies across Atlanta engaged in regular physical activity, and provides a chance for them to participate in such an activity together by signing up for the race.

Last year, more than 400 Atlanta companies participated in the 5K. While approximately 16,000 runners participated in last year's event, Tech's own Victor Breedveld, associate professor in the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, won the race with a time of 1:46:40.

Winning isn't the reason to sign up, though. Elisha Smith, fitness coordinator of G.I.T. FIT Programs and organizer of the Tech team, encourages all faculty and staff to sign up, along with their friends and family, no matter their level of walking or running.

Georgia Tech Police Department Captain Randy Barrow has made it five races. “I like challenging myself to run faster each year,” he said. “My advice for others is to set a personal fitness goal … and don’t be nervous or intimidated. Just go at your own pace, and have fun.”

Registration for this year’s race, which takes place on Sept. 11 at 6 p.m., is $33 and is open through Sept. 10. Participants receive a Georgia Tech team T-shirt. Tech employees are encouraged to sign up and join the Georgia Tech team at kpcorporaterunwalk.com.

KP Corporate Run/Walk
Date: Thursday, Sept. 11
Time: 6 p.m.
Location: Turner Field
Cost: $33
More information:
c.gatech.edu/kp2014

Deal Proposes High School Computer Science Option

Georgia Governor Nathan Deal visited campus Aug. 25 to propose that state educators encourage students to take computer programming courses by allowing those classes to satisfy core high school diploma requirements. Under the governor’s proposal, the programming classes could satisfy requirements for math, science, or foreign language. Deal was joined by Chris Klaus, a Tech alumnus and donor, Provost Rafael Bras, and University System of Georgia Chancellor Hank Huckaby as he made the announcement at the Klaus Advanced Computing Building. Read more at c.gatech.edu/deals.