Nominations Open for Staff Council

17 representatives will be elected by peers

RACHEL POCKLINGTON INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

The Georgia Tech Staff Council is gearing up to hold nominations and elections to transition the interim Staff Council over to elected members who will represent Tech’s wider staff community. Staff Council nominations will be open from Sept. 29 – Oct. 10, with elections planned from Nov. 3 – 14.

“Our primary goal after forming the interim council was to extend this election opportunity to the greater staff,” said Christie Stewart, associate director of Campus Recreation and vice chair of the Staff Council. “There is a lot of work to be done, and the time is right for staff to get involved and really contribute to this effort.”

Acting in an advisory role to the executive and senior leadership, the Staff Council will serve as a conduit for views that represent the greater staff population and provide insight on how decisions regarding policies, procedures, and investments affect this segment of the campus community.

see COUNCIL, page 3

Campus Officially Tobacco- and Smoke-Free

Pet the Board of Regents, Oct. 1 is the implementation deadline for all 31 colleges and universities in the University System of Georgia to adopt the Tobacco-Free Campus Policy passed in March. For those interested in quitting tobacco use, Stamps Health Services is offering a series of cessation programs. Learn more at: tobaccofree.gatech.edu

Campus Survives Zombie Takeover

Once a year, students, faculty, and staff join together to fight the undead as they play a campuswide game of tag known as Humans vs. Zombies. Hundreds participated in the fall event that took place Sept. 22–29, where the goal is for zombies to kill and humans to survive. Here, a recently killed human moves her bandana from her arm to her head, symbolizing her transition from a human to a zombie. Humans can defend themselves from zombie attacks by throwing socks stuffed with marshmallows or other socks. Learn more and plan for next semester’s game at hvz.gatech.edu.

Plan Now for Updates to Benefits during Open Enrollment

OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES

With five weeks until the start of the 2015 Benefits Open Enrollment period, members of Georgia Tech’s benefits team are urging all staff and faculty to spend some time reviewing current elections and considering what, if any, modifications need to be made going forward.

“Though there aren’t major vendor changes this year, experience tells us that a person’s benefits tend to work better when he or she invests the time to understand all of the available options, and the ramifications of those choices,” said Brandon Conkle, director of Total Rewards in the Office of Human Resources. “It’s important to be thinking about how you are using your health benefits, and whether it makes sense to change anything about your coverage.”

The benefits team has scheduled several information sessions (see 2014 Open Enrollment Dates, below) open to anyone who wants to better understand what’s changing or get answers to questions in person. The annual Benefits Fair is scheduled for Oct. 23, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom.

As with last year, the window for making updates to 2015 coverage is just two weeks, from Nov. 3 – 14. While it is not necessary for everyone with coverage to re-enroll in a benefits plan, it is important for everyone to log in to update their information and select the health plan that works best for them.

see BENEFITS, page 4

2014 Open Enrollment Dates

• Oct. 30: Open Enrollment Info Session. 9:30 – 10:45 a.m., Student Center Ballroom.

See the Glassdoor Top 25 University Rankings at: c.gatech.edu/

GlassdoorTop25

See the full list at: see WHISTLE, page 4
University System Honors Six Tech Employees for Excellence

KRISTEN BAILEY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

The University System of Georgia (USG) recently named finalists for the Chancellor’s Annual Service Excellence Awards, and Georgia Tech boasts several finalists.

The Westside Communities Alliance (WCA) Executive Leadership Team, Vice President of Campus Services Paul Strouts, and Professor Michael Schatz were selected from nearly 300 nominees at all 31 USG institutions.

The awards are meant to recognize and reward employees for high levels of performance, high-light service projects and process improvements, and honor commitment to customer service excellence.

CULTIVATING COMMUNITY

The WCA team, which earned its place in the Team Award category, includes Chris Burke, director of community relations; Sheri Davis-Faulkner, director of the WCA; Mackenzie Madden, associate director of the WCA; and Jacqueline Royster, dean of the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts and WCA founder.

The group was formed in 2011 with the vision of developing a partnership between Atlanta’s institutions of higher education and surrounding neighborhoods.

Since its founding, the group has been influential in hosting community events and discussions, and bringing together people from the neighborhoods and campuses to work toward solutions to community issues.

“We look forward to ever-evolving opportunities for action and success, both on the campus and in the Westside communities,” Royster said. “This nomination affirms our commitment and inspires our ongoing pursuit of excellence.”

SERVICE-CENTERED SERVICES

Strouts, who came to Tech in 2012 and was nominated in the Leadership Award category, oversees the suite of operations that includes Housing, Dining, Stamps Health Services, Business Services, Human Resources, Barnes and Noble at Georgia Tech, Student Center, and Parking and Transportation Services.

“While it is trite and cliché, this is a team award,” Strouts said. “The Campus Services team is a dedicated group of professionals unmatched anywhere.

In his time at Tech, Strouts has increased the frequency of meetings between his staff and students, including a monthly meeting he has with the undergraduate and graduate Student Government Association presidents, and he also started the Buzzbin’ Back to School donation drive.

ENHANCING EDUCATION

Schatz, professor and associate chair for undergraduate education in the School of Physics, is a finalist in the Individual Award category. He heads up the School’s Pattern Formation and Control Lab, and last year began teaching one of the first massive open online courses (MOOCs) that includes a lab requirement.

“Mike is an inspired, talented teacher with a real vision for improving physics education,” said Jennifer Curtis, associate professor in the School of Physics who led the effort to nominate Schatz.

In addition to having high school teachers enrolled in his MOOC, Schatz has also been involved with training teachers in Atlanta Public Schools and Fulton County Schools, and was part of a national workshop for teaching assistants in science, technology, engineering, and mathemat-ics fields.

“I’ve been at Tech 18 years, and, to this day, it’s been an exciting place that provides wonderful opportunities to work with very bright students and fantastic colleagues,” Schatz said. “Being selected as a finalist in recognition of our education contributions is, for my collaborators and myself, a very great honor.”

The finalists will be recognized in a ceremony at Kennesaw State University on Oct. 10, where they will learn whether they earned a gold, silver, or bronze level award.

USG Service Excellence Awards

Finalists

Team Award: Chris Burke, Sheri Davis-Faulkner, Mackenzie Madden, and Jacqueline Royster

Leadership Award: Paul Strouts

Individual Award: Michael Schatz

Flu Vaccines Available at Stamps

JOHN KENNINGTON
CAMPUSS SERVICES

As flu season approaches, Stamps Health Services is proactively planning to arm campus with the tools it needs to stay healthy, including offering flu shots to faculty and staff for $25.

Flu shots are administered on an annual basis because the strains of the virus change and the body’s level of immunity has likely declined from a vaccine received last season. The vaccination being administered by Stamps this year is a quadrivalent vaccine, meaning it covers four different strains of the virus.

“If you get the flu, you will feel like you might die for a few days, but for someone at high risk — the elderly, young children, pregnant women, and individuals with chronic diseases — they may well die,” said Greg Moore, senior director of Stamps Health Services. Some 30,000 Americans die from influenza each year.

Faculty and staff can get vaccinated during one of six Flu Clinics being offered this fall. The first clinic will be offered on Tuesday, Oct. 7, 1–5 p.m. Free.

Clinics will be offered on the following dates:

- Tuesday, Oct. 7
- Tuesday, Oct. 14
- Tuesday, Oct. 28
- Tuesday, Nov. 4
- Tuesday, Nov. 18
- Tuesday, Dec. 2

No appointment is necessary to attend the Flu Clinics, but there may be lines or wait times. Clinics are held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with a lunch break from 12:45 – 1:30 p.m. All faculty and staff must bring their BuzzCard when checking in. For payment, Stamps accepts credit card or BuzzCard.

Appointments can also be made by calling 404-894-1432, or the shot can be given during any regular appointment that’s already scheduled.

Stamps also encourages the practice of other preventative measures during flu season, including covering your cough, frequently washing hands, and staying home if you feel sick.

Events continued on page 3

Photograph by Mark L. Anderson

Photograph by Mark L. Anderson
Campus News

Campus Recreation Center Offers Holiday Break Camps

CAMPUS RECREATION CENTER

For faculty, staff, and students with children, finding child care during holidays when the campus is open can be a challenge. The Campus Recreation Center offers one option for families through Tech Wreck Break Camp.

These day camps are offered for children in first through eighth grades who have a parent who is a Tech faculty member, staff member, or student. Campers participate in a variety of activities including organized games, arts and crafts, free time, and swimming. Camps are offered five days throughout the year, from 7:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cost of $40 per child, per day, includes lunch and an afternoon snack.

Post-camp supervision is offered until 5:30 p.m. for an additional $10 per day. Camps are limited to 21 children per day.

Camp dates for the 2014-15 year are:
- Nov. 24
- Nov. 25
- Dec. 29
- Dec. 30
- Feb. 16

Registration opens Wednesday, Oct. 1, at 10 a.m., at c.gatech.edu/TechnWreckCampReg.

Additional information is available online at c.gatech.edu/TechnWreckBreakCamp.

Questions and waiting list requests can be directed to Ken Lovic at lovic@gatech.edu.
Hartley Appointed Homeless Student Liaison

KRISTEN BAILY INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

For students who find themselves homeless at some point during college, or those who don’t have a place to go home to when they leave campus, Tech now has someone to assist.

Dana Hartley, senior academic professional and undergraduate coordinator in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences (EAS), is now also Tech’s liaison for foster and homeless support. Her designation comes as part of an effort from the University System of Georgia to have more students finish college and earn degrees.

“Tech has a large realization in recent years that there are simple things we can do to help homeless students and those who were formerly in foster care,” Hartley said. “These students are some of the most disconnected, and one of the keys to helping them is the ability to communi- cate between the Department of Human Services and universities.”

Hartley got involved with foster care issues a couple years back after reading an article by Tech alumni Sam Bracken, who was homeless, and resonated with the idea of helping students who were formerly in foster care once they got to college. She also works with Earth and Atmospheric Sciences as part of an organization for first generation college students.

“If you separate out the survival issues, there’s a lot of similarity with homeless and first generation college students,” she said.

“Those students don’t have families that know the system to be able to support them in that way.”

To Colin Potts, vice provost for undergraduate education, Hartley was the obvious fit for working with homeless and foster students at Tech.

“Dana has been an unofficial advisor for first generation stu- dents and is on a grant for sup- porting aged-out foster students who attend Tech,” Potts said. “She has the background, interest, and compassion to want to be involved, and I can’t think of a more appropriate person.”

Hartley says students who are experiencing homelessness, or know someone who is, should contact her so she can connect them with resources. Even those who are not yet homeless but may be at risk of becoming so should go to her for assistance.

“It may be that they’re getting evicted, can’t cover their rent, or have been crashing with some- one,” she said. “We can’t solve all the problems, but we can help support them.”

Dana Hartley stop during a hike at the top of Rabun Bald, the second highest peak in Georgia. In addition to roles in the School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Hartley also recently became the resource contact for homeless students and those who were formerly in foster care.

ABOUT HARTLEY

Hartley came to Tech 21 years ago, and has been hands-on with students throughout her career. She was the director of academic advising for the campus from 2006-08, then director of Undergraduate Studies from 2008-12. In her current role with EAS, she teaches physics of the weather, atmospheric chemistry, thermodynamics, and GT1000.

What brought you to Tech?

“My father is a Tech alumus, so when I was getting job offers after I finished my Ph.D., my dad would leave phone messages for me just saying “Tech, Tech, Tech.” It was all very subtle. Both me and my siblings used to say “Tech, Tech, Tech.””

“Tech was the obvious fit for working with homeless students and those who were formerly in foster care.”

“My favorite local hike is East Palisades on the Chattahoochee in Northwest Atlanta. You can get a few miles and not see another person — it’s hard to believe it is so close.”

“My family recently got hooked on Gu’s Bistro on Buford Highway, a Swuchuan Chinese restaurant that makes the best amazing dumplings and lots of good spicy food. They are actually opening a Gu’s Dumpling shop near the Old Fourth Word at Krog Street Market this fall.

Do you have a favorite place on campus?

“My favorite is morning coffee at the Clough Commons.

University System Chancellor Visits Campus

Henry “Hank” Huckabay, chancellor for the University System of Georgia, visited campus Thursday, Sept. 25, to meet with campus leaders and students, and to tour facilities. Huckabay toured the Engineered Biosystems Building in progress on 10th Street. He also visited the Food Processing Technology Building, Marcus Nanotechnology Building, Library, and Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons.

Family. “Hank” Huckabay, chancellor for the University System of Georgia, visited campus Thursday, Sept. 25, to meet with campus leaders and students, and to tour facilities. Huckabay toured the Engineered Biosystems Building in progress on 10th Street. He also visited the Food Processing Technology Building, Marcus Nanotechnology Building, Library, and Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons.

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