**Staff Council Elects First Group of Reps**

**Members serve terms of 2–3 years**

**RACHEL POCKLINGTON**

The results are in, and beginning in 2015, members of the new Staff Council will start their term as the first elected representatives for staff at Georgia Tech.

“We are very fortunate to have had such a positive response to the idea of a Staff Council at Tech,” said Christie Stewart, associate director of Campus Recreation and vice chair of the Staff Council. “From the information sessions conducted over the summer, to the nominations and elections this past fall, staff are very eager to participate. We certainly could not have done this without the support of Tech’s leadership as well as the greater community.”

**Google Earth**

A fleet of Nissan Leafs occupy several of the existing electric vehicle parking spaces on campus. Parking and Transportation continues to see an increase in drivers of electric vehicles.

**Parking and Transportation Expands EV Charging Space**

**VICTOR ROGERS**

In the past year, Georgia Tech has seen steady growth in the number of electric vehicles (EV), with approximately 150 EVs parking on campus regularly.

A recent grant of $39,675 from the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) to Tech’s Parking and Transportation Services (PTS) will help the Institute expand its EV charging program by installing nine dual-port Level II chargers in visitor-accessible locations including near the Student Center, Howey Physics Building, and Bobby Dodd Stadium.

“We’re very pleased to have been selected from a quality pool of candidates throughout the state to receive this grant funding, which will allow us to best leverage our limited transportation dollars to meet the growing need on campus for charging,” said Lance Lunsway, director of Parking and Transportation Services. The GEFA Charge Georgia grant was made available to Georgia colleges, universities, and technical colleges; state agencies and authorities; and cities and counties.

To meet the need for EV charging, PTS has already installed Level II chargers in Tech Square, and Level I chargers in specific campus parking decks. Demand is still growing.

“The Tech community values innovation and is an early adopter of technology,”

**Getting Tech Gear Supports Students**

**DAN TREADWAY**

If you have yet to finish holiday shopping, you can save money while supporting student life at Tech.

Barnes & Noble at Georgia Tech carries many licensed holiday items, and a portion of sales goes toward student scholarships and programs.

**INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS**

**A SEND-OFF FROM THE SWARM**

**Photo by Rob Felt**

Students congregated at Callaway Plaza on Dec. 5 to send off the Yellow Jackets as they boarded buses for Charlotte, North Carolina, to play in the ACC Championship football game. Georgia Tech finished 10-2 during the regular season and won the ACC Coastal Division.
Space Heaters Pose Hazard When Used Improperly

VICTOR ROGERS
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

As fall weather takes hold, many reach for space heaters for a bit of extra warmth.

But, according to the National Fire Protection Association, space heaters account for one-third of home heating fires and four out of five home heating deaths. So, it’s important to keep safety top of mind.

Georgia Tech’s Fire Safety Office has provided guidelines for selecting space heaters and for their safe placement and usage.

A space heater should:
• Be made of ceramic-type material
• Have an individual, built-in thermostat
• Automatically shut off if the airflow becomes blocked
• Shut off automatically if the heater tips over
• Be approved by a testing laboratory, such as UL

Also, when using a space heater, follow these guidelines:
• Place the heater on a flat, level surface.
• Avoid using the heater in wet or moist areas such as bathrooms unless specified for that purpose.
• Plug the heater directly into a wall receptacle without using an extension cord.
• Ensure the cord fits snugly into the socket, and unplug it if it feels hot near the outlet.
• Keep a minimum distance of 3 feet between all sides of the heater and combustible materials such as furniture, paper, boxes, trashcans, clothes, and fabric-covered furniture.
• Maintain airflow behind and around the unit.
• Turn off the heater each time you leave the office.

Georgia Tech’s Fire Safety Office also provides on-site space heater inspections on a building-by-building basis.

To have your space heater inspected or to arrange a building/group inspection, email fire@gatech.edu, or call 404-894-FIRE (3473).

SEMINARS & LECTURES

Dec. 16
The Magnetic Resonance Workshop provides an overview of applications of Magnetic Resonance in Science and Engineering and explain the capabilities available at Georgia Tech and how to get started with specific experiments. From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., room 1126, Petit Institute. petllectures@gatech.edu/ mri-registration

Jan. 14, 2015
Julian Bond gives a keynote address as part of the campus Martin Luther King Jr. celebration. Bond helped establish the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee in the 1960s and served as the first president of the Southern Poverty Law Center. The lecture is free and begins at 3 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom. diversity.gatech.edu

MICROSECONOMICS

Dec. 8-12
Students take final exams for the fall semester. register.gatech.edu

Dec. 10
Provost Rafael Bras and Vice Provost Catherine Murray-Rust host a retirement celebration for Donna Llewellyn, associate vice provost for Learning Excellence and director of the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning. She will be retiring following 30 years of service. The event begins at 3:30 p.m. in the Peachtree Room, Student Center.

Events continued on page 3
International Groups Name Faculty Fellows

KRISTEN BALEY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Faculty members from the College of Computing, College of Engineering, and College of Sciences were honored as fellows this month by some of the most prestigious organizations in their fields.

AAAS
The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is the world’s largest general scientific society, and election as a fellow is an honor bestowed upon AAAS members by their peers.

One of the new AAAS fellows comes from the College of Engineering and two come from the College of Sciences. The fellows were announced in the journal Science and will be honored at the Fellows Forum, which will be held Feb. 14, 2015, at the AAAS Annual Meeting in San Jose, California.

Christopher W. Jones, New-Vision Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, was selected for distinguished contributions to the fields of chemistry and chemical engineering, particularly developments in catalysis sciences and carbon dioxide capture.

C. David Sherrill, professor of chemistry and biochemistry, was chosen for advances in electronic structure theory and their application in seminal studies of non-covalent pi interactions.

Howard (Howie) Weiss, professor of mathematics, was selected for distinguished contributions to dynamical systems theory, studies of properties of Gibbs measures and entropy, and applications to models of social phenomena including urban growth.

AAAS publishes the journal Science as well as many scientific newsletters, books, and reports, and spearheads programs that raise the bar of understanding for science worldwide. The three Georgia Tech faculty members were among 401 fellows elected by the AAAS Council.

IEEE
The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) named three Tech professors to its 2015 slate of fellows.

Aaron Bobick, professor in the School of Interactive Computing, was honored for his contributions for activity recognition in computer vision.

Henrik Christensen, distinguished professor in the School of Interactive Computing and KUKA Chair of Robotics, was honored for contributions to estimation methods for robot localization and mapping.

Ling Liu, professor in the School of Computer Science, was honored for her contributions to scalable Internet data management and decentralized trust management.

IEEE is the world’s largest association of technical professionals. It is focused on advancing electrical and electronic engineering, telecommunications, computer engineering, and other related disciplines.

Josh Nesbitt, one of the most electrifying runners in Tech football history, holds the single-season and career rushing marks by a Yellow Jackets quarterback. During his junior season in 2009, he led the Jackets to an ACC Championship — the Jackets’ first since 1990 — and their first Orange Bowl appearance since 1982.

In the ninth game of his senior season, though, Nesbitt’s college career ended with a tackle that broke his right arm.

After a brief NFL stint, Nesbitt returned to Tech and, with the help of degree completion aid, he graduated to Tech. With the help of degree completion aid, he graduated to Tech.

Most of J.C. Lanier’s college football career was hampered by injury. He played on both sides of the ball while battling his injury.

He moved from the defensive line to the offensive line prior to the 2011 season.

In 2009, as a true freshman, he suffered a preseason shoulder injury, forcing him to redshirt while undergoing rehab. In each of the following three seasons, he played in a total of three games.

Since his career ended due to injury, Lanier qualified for medical aid.

He graduated from Tech in 2014 with a degree in management and joined Waffle House’s management training program.

To learn more about licensing at Georgia Tech, visit licensing.gatech.edu.

The Siring Break carnival, held for students each spring, is put on with the help of funding from BuzzFunds.

(NCAA) This aid is designated for former student-athletes who left Tech in good standing prior to graduating, have made considerable progress toward their degree, and were previously on GTAA financial aid.

Fifth-year aid (or post-eligibility financial aid) is given to student-athletes who have exhausted their eligibility within a five-year period from their matriculation term. Each year, approximately 12 students, primarily from the “Olympic” sports, receive this aid.

Medical aid is intended for current student-athletes who have been declared medically unfit to continue active participation in their sport for the duration of their enrollment at Tech.

At any given point, Tech has a few students on campus benefiting from one of these types of aid.

Christopher Jones
David Sherrill
Howie Weiss
Josh Nesbitt
B.J. Elder
J.C. Lanier
Ling Liu
Aaron Bobick
Henrik Christensen

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www.whistle.gatech.edu
BUSINESS SERVICES OUTLINES PARTICULARS OF PURCHASING

RACHEL POCKLINGTON
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

As Georgia Tech employees, we are stewards of state and federal dollars. And while the external state and federal regulations can be confusing to someone who doesn’t make daily purchases, Georgia Tech’s policies and processes are in place to provide guidance and help ensure compliance with these very specific regulations.

Frans Barends, senior director of Business Services, explains some of the processes in place to ensure that purchase transactions are responsible and compliant.

Why did Georgia Tech begin regulating purchases made by employees?

With the increasing complexity of regulations from the state and federal governments, there was a real need to increase operational efficiencies and process transparency, as well as to ultimately increase compliance with these requirements. In 2010, we began introducing a number of procure-to-pay initiatives, and the results have been tremendous.

What is procure-to-pay?

A procure-to-pay system integrates purchasing and accounts payable. This provides an organization with control and visibility over the entire lifecycle of a transaction—from the ordering to the final invoice. In an environment where purchasing and payment transactions are highly regulated and audited for compliance, it is essential to have these systems in place.

What results have these procure-to-pay initiatives generated?

These changes in process, technology, and improved compliance are highlighted in two Federal Contractor Purchasing System Reviews (CFPSs). The CFPS measures purchase practices and documentation in support of federally funded research. Georgia Tech conducts more than $500 million in federally sponsored research, so it is a very important score for the Institute. Georgia Tech received a respectable 87 percent in 2010, and an extraordinary 100 percent in late 2013—a 90 percent score is considered exceptional. The adoption of the BuzzMart procurement system helped drive these results.

What was the reason behind adopting the BuzzMart system?

If you have financial responsibilities of any kind on campus, you should be familiar with BuzzMart. It was designed to incorporate numerous requirements and regulations into a centralized process, allowing for visibility and end-to-end reporting. The introduction of BuzzMart included numerous process changes to move Georgia Tech toward being an electronic procurement organization.

BuzzMart’s introduction to campus has had a tremendous impact on how goods and services are purchased. Since 2010, there has been a steady increase of orders (148 percent increase) flowing into the BuzzMart system and a decrease in purchases (33 percent decrease) made by PCard.

In 2013, Georgia Tech made a strategic move away from the state’s single transaction limit for PCard purchases of $4,999 and lowered it to $2,499. This action has provided better visibility and control in the purchasing of goods and services. The lower PCard purchasing threshold for PCard purchases has contributed to the large increase in purchase orders processed in BuzzMart, the preferred purchasing tool at Georgia Tech.

Is BuzzMart replacing the PCard?

Not exactly, but for several years, Georgia Tech has been focused on reducing PCard transactions and encouraging the appropriate use of the PCard, while following standard best practices. The PCard serves the purposeful business function when properly used—for instance, on small purchases of $2,499 and less. PCard purchases are for items not available in BuzzMart including one-time purchases such as yearly memberships and subscriptions.

The compliance benefits of using BuzzMart over PCard are compelling. For example, BuzzMart provides the ability to obtain electronic approvals and, hence, needed financial visibility prior to the purchase order being executed. With the PCard, departmental approval may be sought prior to the purchase, but the financial transparency happens after the transaction.

What other tools are being deployed to help manage purchases on campus?

In 2012, Georgia Tech became a full member of the Educational Advisory Board (EAB) Spend Compass. EAB Spend Compass is an analytic tool that incorporates data from purchase orders, PCard transactions, and invoices to provide greater detail on spending levels and trends. It also provides cost benchmarks with other member educational institutions, allowing our Purchasing Department to leverage better value and savings when negotiating contracts with vendors. EAB Spend Compass has helped the Purchasing Department negotiate contract pricing that saved over $100,000 on just one supplier contract.

The Purchasing Department also uses the EAB tool to run reports on individual department spending to help better assess spending activity. It is a powerful tool and provides great detail on which tools departments use for purchasing (purchase order, PCard, or check request).

What resources are available if there are questions regarding procurement?

Employees are encouraged to reach out to Procurement and Business Services with their questions and scenarios. We are more than happy to help steer them in the right direction. We are also looking for more efficient, cost-effective ways to help Georgia Tech employees conduct their business and research.

Questions and comments can be directed to purchasing.ask@business.gatech.edu.

EV, from page 1

said Lisa Salstrom, campus transportation planner in PTS. “That’s one reason why there are so many electric vehicles on campus.”

PTS supports a variety of transportation options to access campus, including the use of EVs, which are economical and address environmental concerns. The state of Georgia, boosted by a state tax incentive, is the top-ranked state for EV sales in the country. According to InsideEVs, one out of every 60 new cars registered in Georgia during the first six months of 2014 was an all-electric vehicle.

“We appreciate that people on campus are using greener commuter modes, and we are responding to requests for additional chargers,” Salstrom said.

“The challenge is that everybody wants a charger everywhere, and that’s not feasible.”

To continue to meet the demand, PTS is collaborating with several Tech classes that are evaluating the use of electric vehicles on campus and will review their recommendations upon completion of the evaluations.

For details on campus options for EV charging, visit c.gatech.edu/EVParking.

LAPTOPS AVAILABLE FOR TEMPORARY LOANS

LORRIE BURBROUGHS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

If you’re traveling domestically or internationally, attending a conference, or waiting for a new laptop, you may want to consider checking out a loaner laptop offered by the Office of Information Technology’s (OIT) Loaner Program.

Each Dell and Apple device is equipped with the basic hardware and software requirements, including an operating system, Microsoft Office, and VPN, making it ideal for use at an event or as a temporary backup. If you need additional software or drivers, you may contact your school or department’s computer support specialist.

The Technology Support Center will make sure users are credited as faculty or staff and will assist in the registration process.

When a laptop is returned, an OIT staff member will ensure that all data is erased and ready for the next customer.

As with any Institute-issued equipment, users are expected to follow Georgia Tech policies for working and safe computing.

For more information on policy and compliance, visit oit.gatech.edu/cyberPCA. Users should also read and follow the Secure Travel Tips found at c.gatech.edu/laptoptravel.

To request a loaner laptop, email loanerask@library.gatech.edu. You will be contacted when your laptop is ready, and you can pick it up at the Technology Support Center in Suite 213 of the Clough Commons.

www.whistle.gatech.edu