Looking at the future, more than 250 companies have been named the ‘next big thing’ by incubators and accelerators. Tech Alumni Magazine highlighted a few of these startup endeavors as full-alumni are pursuing.

Starting Something Wanna Be

More and more Tech alumni are pursuing startup careers as full-time entrepreneurs. The Georgia Tech Alumni Magazine highlighted a few of these trailblazers.

NEW NEWS BRIEFS

Nominations Open for USG Service Excellence Awards

The Chancellor’s Annual Service Excellence Awards give University System of Georgia employees a chance to be recognized for high levels of performance during the past year. Categories include individual, team, leader, and service to students awards. Nominations are due Friday, July 24. www.c.gatech.edu/USGexcellence

Dine on a Dime (Plus $4.90)

Georgia Tech Dining Services will host Faculty and Staff Appreciation Day at the North Avenue Dining Hall on Wednesday, July 29, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., when all faculty and staff can enjoy lunch at the dining facility for $5. Cash, credit and debit cards, BuzzFunds, and the faculty/staff meal plan are all accepted forms of payment. www.gatechdining.com

Benefits Enrollment Open for Same-Sex Spouses

When the United States Supreme Court announced last month that same-sex couples would be legally recognized within all 50 states, questions about practical matters such as health care coverage soon followed.

Georgia Tech Human Resources has been sharing updates from the University System of Georgia (USG), which is responsible for working with vendors, updating plan documents, and setting the timeframe for implementation. From now until Sept. 1, employees are able to enroll their same-sex spouse in USG benefits plans. Employees who married after June 26, 2015, will be able to enroll their same-sex spouse in the benefits coverage by following the family status change procedures already in place for USG benefits plans.

The USG Human Resources office is working with each of its vendors, as well as legal counsel, to identify and update its plan documents to reflect the change. “Any large-scale change requires a great deal of collaboration and communication,” President G.P. “Bud” Peterson said. “I appreciate the work our System representatives have taken on behalf of our employees, working in partnership to make these benefits available to all.”

The Supreme Court’s decision also aligns with Tech’s desire to enhance financial security for its employees and remain competitive for top talent in the marketplace. "The Supreme Court ruling on marriage equality opens the door for Georgia Tech to act upon one of the recommendations from the vision, mission, values, and objectives of BBISS. Their selection is for three years with the potential for renewal. The program and research institute are named for Brook Byers, a venture capitalist and senior partner at Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers, who earned

in the benefits coverage by following the family status change procedures already in place for USG benefits plans. This year, Tech also earned awards for having the largest total increase in contributions and the highest level of employee participation. Learn more at www.charitable.gatech.edu.

Tech’s charitable campaign ambassadors pose with the Governor’s Cup, held by President G.P. “Bud” Peterson, earned for donations to the 2015 State Charitable Contributions Program. The Cup, which Tech has won 13 times, is awarded annually to the state institution with the highest average contribution per employee. In the 2015 campaign, 3,981 Georgia Tech employees pledged $893,579. Donations from the campaign are distributed to nonprofit organizations around the state of Georgia. This is the eighth year in a row Georgia Tech has earned the award. This year, Tech also earned awards for having the largest total increase in contributions and the highest level of employee participation. Learn more at www.charitable.gatech.edu.

Cubans have long had a love/hate relationship with the United States. And with good reason. Even when they were colonial subjects of Spain, Cubans admired America. They played baseball, took vacations, and pursued college degrees in America. They named children after George Washington. But Cubans also understood the warning issued by the prophet of Cuban independence, José Martí, that America was a colossus that would at times seek to thwart a better, more inclusive, and more progressive Cuba. Cubans looked with gratitude upon the critical aid that the United States lent them in their war of independence against Spain but rejected as poison the American claim to have freed Cuba. They named children after George Washington. But Cubans also understood the warning issued by the prophet of Cuban independence, José Martí, that America was a colossus that would at times seek to thwart a better, more inclusive, and more progressive Cuba. Cubans looked with gratitude upon the critical aid that the United States lent them in their war of independence against Spain but rejected as poison the American claim to have freed Cuba.

benefits coverages by following the family status change procedures already in place for USG benefits plans. The USG Human Resources office is working with each of its vendors, as well as legal counsel, to identify and update its plan documents to reflect the change. “Any large-scale change requires a great deal of collaboration and communication,” President G.P. “Bud” Peterson said. “I appreciate the work our System representatives have taken on behalf of our employees, working in partnership to make these benefits available to all.”

The Supreme Court’s decision also aligns with Tech’s desire to enhance financial security for its employees and remain competitive for top talent in the market.
Campus News

Space Reservation Guidelines Get Updates

Advisement Notice Aims to Ease Process Pains

THE WHISTLE  • July 20, 2015 • PAGE 2

Space Reservation Brown Bag

The Event Coordinators’ Network hosts a session on campus space reservation with Sharon Myers on Wednesday, July 22, from 10 – 11 a.m., in Room 115, Instructional Center.

July 22

The Event Coordinators’ Network hosts a brown bag session on campus space reservations. Sharon Myers, campus space coordinator, will talk about policy updates and answer questions from 10 to 11 a.m. in Room 115, Instructional Center. RSVP at c.gatech.edu/spacebrownsbag

Effective this month, several modifications have been made with the intent to make the process run more smoothly.

“We’re really hoping to help people organize so there are not last minute issues,” said Sharon Myers. Campus space coordinator for Capital Planning and Space Management. Myers assumed this role in March after several years of managing reservations at the Bill Moore Student Success Center.

For outdoor events, all info table requests will now require notice of seven days instead of five, to account for weekend requests and be sure all can be accommodated in time.

Outdoor events that require more than an info table will now require three weeks notice. This amount of notice will enable all those planning events to attend a meeting of the campus Event Logistics Committee, which provides information and assistance to students, faculty, and staff hosting events. For outdoor events that are co-hosted with non-Georgia Tech entities, there will now be a $200 space usage fee, replacing the previous $1,000 deposit.

For classroom scheduling, students will now need to book classroom space three days in advance, as opposed to the 24-hour notice previously required. This change was made in part to help with the collection of cleaning fees when they are required. Chartered student groups will be able to do this using the Chartered Student Group Request Form (Classrooms), available at www.gtevents.gatech.edu/virtuallms under the Request Space menu.

Above all, Myers hopes the updated guidelines will help ease the process of event planning and space reservation on campus.

“We want to help everyone’s event be the best it can be,” she said. “The more information we receive in the beginning, the more we can help.”

Semester Event Reservation Windows

For students, faculty, and staff, new annual event scheduling dates are meant to help them plan for each semester. The dates when space may be reserved for upcoming semesters are:

• Summer 2015: Request for space through Aug. 13.
• Fall 2015: Beginning Aug. 1, students can request for Aug. 14 – Dec. 16. Faculty and staff can request through Dec. 19.
• Summer 2016: Beginning April 1, 2016, students can request for May 2 – July 31, 2016. Faculty and staff can request for May 9 – Aug. 6, 2016.

More resources and information on campus events and space guidelines are available at www.c.gatech.edu/eventscheduling and www.c.gatech.edu/eventtoolbox

FAMILIARIZATION AND ADAPTATION

Students enjoy a picnic during FASET Orientation in the mid-1980s. FASET (which stands for “Familiarization and Adaptation to the Surroundings and Environments of Tech”) lets students spend time on campus learning about resources and registering for classes before starting their first semester. Sessions are now ongoing through August. Learn more at www.nssp.gatech.edu.

INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Faculty/Staff Newspaper

Published biweekly throughout the academic year and the summer by Georgia Tech Institute Communications.

Calendar submissions emailed to editor@comm.gatech.edu, or faxed to 404-894-7214, must be sent at least 10 days prior to desired publication date. Classified submissions are on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, call 404-385-7081.

Archived issues of The Whistle can be accessed at www.whistle.gatech.edu.

Reginald DesRoches, Karen and John Hutt School Chair and professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, has been elected to the Academy of Distinguished Alumni at his alma mater, the University of California, Berkeley.

Maggie Egerstedt, associate chair for research and external affairs in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, has earned the 2015 John R. Ragazzini Education Award from the American Automatic Control Council. The award recognizes outstanding contributions to education through materials and effective classroom teaching, textbook development, and graduate student mentoring.

Nigel Hampton, principal research scientist in Electrical and Computer Engineering, earned the Jicable 15 Prize at the 9th International Conference on Insulated Power Cables for his paper on voltage testing frequency on underground cable systems.

Chris Huber, professor in the School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, earned the American Geophysical Union’s Kuno Award for outstanding contributions in the fields of volcanology, geochimistry, and petrology.

Colin Potts, vice provost for Undergraduate Education, was elected to the Board of the Reinvention Center, a consortium of research universities dedicated to advancing undergraduate education through networking, convening, and sharing. He also joined the Executive Advisory Board of the Higher Education Teaching and Learning Association.

Xinyi Song, assistant professor in the School of Building Construction, earned the American Society of Civil Engineers’ 2015 Journal of Management in Engineering Best Peer Reviewed Paper Award.

Shina Tan, assistant professor in the School of Physics, earned the 2015 Bose-Einstein Award, junior category, for his discovery of relations that have greatly influenced understanding of interacting degenerate gases.

THE WHISTLE - July 20, 2015 - PAGE 2

FACULTY & STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

THE WHISTLE
Campus News

BRINGING UP BOOKWORMS

(L-R) Georgia First Lady Sandra Deal, Atlanta First Lady Sarah-Elizabeth Reed, Georgia Tech First Lady Val Peterson, and Atlanta Dream Co-owner and Campaign Georgia Tech Co-chair Mary Rockett Brock spent the morning of July 13 visiting schoolchildren at the Horizons@GT summer camp, hosted by Georgia Tech’s Center for Education Integrating Science, Mathematics, and Computing (CEISMC). Deal and Reed served as mystery readers for the students. Brock also serves on the national board for Horizons.

6 Entrepreneurial Upstarts from Tech Alumni

These Yellow Jackets stand poised to disrupt with their innovation-driven endeavors.

Hux
Stanley Vergilis and AJ Alex founded Hux, which aims to do for housecleaning, and other household services, what Uber is doing for transportation. Hux is now available in the Atlanta area.

Monsieur
Created by Barry Givens, Mario Taylor, and Donald Beamer, Monsieur is similar to a Coca-Cola Freestyle machine, except it serves a perfect martini. It debuted at the 2015 Kentucky Derby and is being tested at Philips Arena this summer.

Yulex
Jeffrey Martin, a 1982 graduate, developed this award-winning wetsuit with adventure retailer Patagonia that replaces neoprene with an environment-friendly, non-allergenic, guayule-based fabric.

Unite for Sight
Kathy Pham (left), founding member and health data advisor of U.S. Digital Service, got her entrepreneurial start as a student who founded this nonprofit to raise awareness about eye health and eradicate preventable blindness.

Better Walk Crutch
As a biomedical engineering student, Partha Unnava had a breakthrough after six miserable weeks on crutches. He engineered a better device that more evenly distributes the body’s resting weight and is now being manufactured.

TITIN
Patrick Whaley, a 2010 Tech graduate, founded this company, which manufactures weighted training clothing. TITIN now averages $1 million in sales per month, and Whaley was recently featured on ABC’s Shark Tank.

FELLOWS, from page 1
his bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from Georgia Tech in 1968 and later an MBA from Stanford University. Byers has helped build more than 110 companies in the life sciences area and is particularly active in biotechnology incubation.

In late August, the fellows will begin mapping out a strategy for future years. The 12 fellows represent all six of Georgia Tech’s colleges, as well as the Georgia Tech Research Institute. The inaugural BBISS Fellows are:

• Baabak Ashurí, School of Building Construction, College of Architecture.
• Atalay Atasu, Scheller College of Business.
• Kevin Caravati, Georgia Tech Research Institute.
• Kim Cobb, School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, College of Sciences.
• Bistra Dilkina, School of Computational Science and Engineering, College of Computing.
• Ellen Dunham-Jones, College of Architecture.
• Tom Fuller, School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, College of Engineering.
• Asok Goel, School of Interactive Computing, College of Computing.
• Randy Guensler, School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, College of Engineering.
• Daniel Matisoff, School of Public Policy, Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts.
• Juan Moreno-Cruz, School of Economics, Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts.
• Marc Weissburg, School of Biology, College of Sciences.

Learn more about these innovations at www.c.gatech.edu/alumniupstarts. Read more from the Georgia Tech Alumni Magazine at www.gtalumimag.com.

THE WHISTLE • July 20, 2015 • PAGE 3

Events

July 23-24
FASET Orientation hosts incoming first-year students and their parents/guests for a two-day program designed to welcome them to the Georgia Tech community. Additional sessions take place August 2-3, August 9-10, and August 12-13. c.gatech.edu/faset

July 24
The Language Institute hosts its weekly Language Cafe, where English speakers can practice other languages with international students who are native speakers, from 1 to 2:15 p.m. in the O’Keefe Building Courtyard. eil.gatech.edu

July 24
Last day of summer classes. registrar.gatech.edu

July 27-31
Final exams for late short summer and full summer sessions. registrar.gatech.edu

August 4
The Scheller College of Business hosts an information session for its full-time and evening MBA programs from 6 to 8 p.m. in Room 101, Scheller College of Business. Register to attend at c.gatech.edu/august4mba

August 12-13
Graduate Student Employee Processing offers an opportunity for graduate students (GRA/GTA/GA) to complete new hire paperwork in a one-stop shop from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the third floor of Clough. Commons. Representatives from the U.S. Social Security Administration will be in attendance, as well as a select group of banks. ehr.gatech.edu/graduateemployeeprocessing

August 16
New Student Convocation takes place from 5 to 6 p.m. in McCamish Pavilion. c.gatech.edu/convocation

August 17
Classes begin for fall semester. registrar.gatech.edu

August 21
The Institute for People and Technology holds a town hall meeting to present its agenda for the 2015-16 academic year. ipat.gatech.edu

August 26
Raymond King, Tech alumnus and president and chief executive officer at Zoo Atlanta, gives a talk as part of the IMPACT Speaker Series from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in the LeCraw Auditorium, Scheller College of Business. c.gatech.edu/impact

For a more comprehensive listing of events, or to add one of your own, visit calendar.gatech.edu
Pierce Makes Habit of Exploring His Surroundings

KRISTEN BAILY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Many members of the Tech community make volunteering a priority, but not many make a regular habit of doing so in a wetsuit.

Jim Pierce, senior director for Bursar and Treasury Services, began volunteering with the Georgia Aquarium before it even opened in 2005. Over the past 10 years, he has spent nearly 400 of his 1,100 total volunteer hours at the aquarium tending to fish and famishing through the exhibits. He spends many evenings and weekends scrubbing tank walls, wiping windows, and sometimes speaking to attendees of events. However, the aquarium is not the only place he volunteers. Pierce’s 25-year diving career began with an admiration of Jacques Cousteau and a curiosity of the unknown.

“It’s always been fascinating to me to see something other people haven’t seen,” he said. “It’s the closest thing you can get to being in outer space.”

Though Pierce spends around 100 hours a year volunteering at the aquarium, the “best scuba diving in the City of Atlanta,” he calls it — his favorite place to dive is in caves. The dirster, muddier, and deeper, the better. His office walls bear images of his travels with his 14-year-old son’s diver propulsion vehicle in Wakulla Springs near Tallahassee, Florida, in 2011. (Below) Pierce and his son during their trip to the Florida Keys in June 2015.

As an alumnius, he suggests that all Tech employees experience a few of the things students enjoy for themselves. Among his recommendations is a trip to Britannia Hall (“It’s beautiful, and employees don’t know they can eat there.”), bowling at Tech Rec in the Student Center, going down the slide at the Campus Recreation Center (“It goes crazy fast!”), and seeing a DramaTech performance. As an employee himself, he tries to use his sphere of influence to improve the student experience.

“We’re always doing what we can to look at keeping the cost down and trying to offer additional payment options. For students, he also offers a piece of advice, or a thought, about life at Tech and what helped make it memorable to serve.

“Tech will provide you the best friends of your life — you’ll never again have a peer group that’s more like you.” — Jim Pierce

CUBA, from page 1

tion that were forced upon them by the United States, such as those allowing for (and frequently resulting in) American intervention in internal Cuban affairs under a wide range of circumstances.

The list of grievances and complexities is long and rarely understood by Americans who see simply that Cubans see simply that Cubans are eager to embrace American ways and American products. They are eager, but they are also cautious and restrained. And this must not be forgotten as the American-Cuban relationship shifts.

Cubans will call us to task for a current grievance that will surprise no one, the fact that the United States singled out Cuba over five decades with punishing economic and political isolation not

visited on even worse regimes. But there is more: Cubans understand, as do most Cuban experts, that American hostility has been the key to the survival of communism on the island. Indeed, the long history of grievances against America practically guaranteed the longevity of a man like Fidel Castro, who at every turn knew how to emphasize his anti-Americanism in order to secure domestic support.

In short, this historic moment of change in the Cuban-U.S. relationship will call for a deep understanding of history and some degree of humility on the part of Americans.

Read more about John Tone at www.c.gatech.edu/johntone, and more thoughts from Tech faculty about current issues at www.amplifier.gatech.edu

benefits, from page 1 the Task Force on Family-Friendly Policies,” said Institute Diversity Vice President Archae Evr. “Because partner benefits are critical in recruiting and retaining the most qualified employees, the task force’s recommendation was for the Institute to find a way to extend benefits to same-sex partners, which was not legal in Georgia until now. Thanks to this landmark Supreme Court decision, we can move forward with providing benefits to married same-sex partners in accordance with the University of Georgia.”

Employees can visit the USG’s main benefits page at www.usg.edu/hr/benefits for information about the system office’s progress in implementing the change and should continue to check it for the most up-to-date benefits enrollment information related to the ruling. Ongoing updates will also be cross-posted to www.ohr.gatech.edu.