Institute Looks Toward New Legislative Session

LAURA MEANS
GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

As the 2016 legislative session begins this month, Georgia Tech’s Office of Government and Community Relations will be focused on conveying Tech’s legislative priorities to Georgia’s leaders.

“Among our top priorities this year is securing $47.4 million for the renewal of Price Gilbert Library and Crosland Tower,” said Dene Sheheane, vice president of Government and Community Relations. “This initial-phase construction funding of the comprehensive renewal project would enable us to vastly increase core campus space for students. Planning and design for the project is underway as a result of the $1.7 million state allocation in FY15.” Sheheane and his colleagues will also advocate for the following initiatives:

• Secure $1.62 million to expand startup incubator ATDC. The second of a two-year expansion project, this funding would provide additional professional coaching staff to support creation of new startup companies in Georgia.
• Strengthen partnerships with the Department of Agriculture and Georgia AgriTech Innovation Initiative. This initiative involves building partnerships with the AgriTech Innovation Initiative. This initiative involves building partnerships to grow Georgia’s agri-tech industry.

New Year Brings Tax Season, Performance Planning

MYRA OVIAIT
OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Resources is getting ready for 2016 with new initiatives. There are also some already-established processes to keep in mind as the new year gets underway.

New Form for 2015 Taxes and eW2s

By Feb. 1, 2016, some employees will receive a new tax form regarding 2015 health care coverage called the 1095-C. If you receive a 1095-C, you will need to file the form with your 2015 tax return. The IRS will use information you report on your 1095-C to determine whether you will pay a penalty for failing to have health care coverage as required by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, also called Obamacare.

Employees who will receive the form include those who:

• Were enrolled in health care coverage from the University System of Georgia/Georgia Tech at any point in 2015.
• Worked an average of 30 or more hours per week or were considered a full-time employee in 2015.

An FAQ and other details will soon be available at www.ohr.gatech.edu. View the form at www.c.gatech.edu/1095.

Faculty Take Part in Undergraduate Admission Process

KRISTEN BAILEY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

This week, thousands of students will find out if they were accepted to Georgia Tech during the early action round of applications, and thousands of others will apply for admission during the regular decision round.

This year, more than 14,500 students applied during early action—a 27 percent increase over last year. With Georgia Tech continuing to get more competitive, the Office of Undergraduate Admission has been looking for ways to better evaluate the growing pool of candidates.

For the second year in a row, faculty members are being brought in during the final round of conversations—called “cohort review”—to help identify the best candidates for their academic programs.

“The goal is to help people around campus understand how admission decisions are made, and to bring people into the process who look with a different lens and will help us make the best decisions,” said Rick Clark, director of Undergraduate Admission. This year, faculty members from four of Tech’s six colleges will participate in cohort review. The students who are evaluated during cohort review are already

A Look Back at 2015

It was another memorable year for Georgia Tech. Reflect on some of the Institute’s landmark moments with a Year in Review at www.c.gatech.edu/2015

College of Engineering Leads Nation in Doctoral Degrees

Recent data from the National Science Foundation shows that the College of Engineering leads in the conferring of doctoral degrees. The report showed that out of 9,568 doctoral engineering degrees granted in 2014, 339 were from Georgia Tech. Learn more at www.c.gatech.edu/phds

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ARTS & CULTURE

Jan. 13–29
The College of Architecture hosts the work of Shih-hui Su-Tatcke, a dynamic Toronto-based design firm, in the Stubbins Gallery, East Architecture Building. The gallery is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

c.gatech.edu/teachingkickoff

 Jan. 20–21
Wing-Man is a laugh-out-loud and surprisingly poignant "one-clown show" that explores obsession with social media. In the tradition of Keaton, Chaplin, and Irwin, award-winning performer Mark Gandik wordlessly battles a series of unsolvable 21st century obstacles with only a stage-size interactive computer screen, his iPhone, and a tech-savvy audience. Shows take place at 7:30 p.m. at the Furst Center for the Arts.

arts.gatech.edu/ferstcenter

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

Jan. 15
The Georgia Tech Drupal Users Group hosts its January meeting from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the Bradley Conference Room in Highland Bakery.

drupal.gatech.edu

HR

Also with regard to taxes, Georgia Tech continues to offer all active employees the ability to receive W2s electronically. By consenting to receive your W2 electronically instead of via mail, you:
• Remove the risk of sending your social security number through the mail – a very common source of identity theft.
• Have access to your W2 as soon as it is finalized by Payroll. This eliminates printing and mailing the form.

Visit www.techworks.gatech.edu to review your address and consent to receive your W2 online.

Performance Management

Georgia Tech strives to provide an environment where all employees understand the impact their contributions have on the achievement of Institute goals. The annual performance review process, which is aligned with the calendar year, is an integral part of that environment.

Tech's allocation will be directed toward more than $100 million in deferred maintenance needs. During the legislative session, the Office of Government and Community Relations also engages external partners in sharing Tech's story. Members of the Capitol Jackets advocacy network, which includes alumni and partners on campus, receive a biweekly newsletter with updates from the Gold Dome. To demonstrate their appreciation for ongoing support from state lawmakers, the Georgia Tech community will convene for the annual Georgia Tech Student Day at the Capitol on Feb. 1.

Each session, Georgia Tech students have the opportunity to serve full-time as interns to legislators, legislative committees, or legislative staffs through the Georgia Legislative Internship Program offered in collaboration with colleges and universities throughout Georgia and the Georgia General Assembly.

Learn more about these events and programs, and sign up for newsletter updates about Tech's state and federal relations efforts, at www.gov.gatech.edu.

Students participate in Georgia Tech Student Day at the Capitol, which is held annually during the legislative session.

FEDERAL RELATIONS WELCOMES NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Government and Community Relations welcomes a new assistant director of federal relations this week.

Jeff Cullen, who assumed this role Jan. 4, comes to Tech from the British Consulate General in Atlanta, where he served as head of science and innovation. Cullen will be based on campus and will report to Robert Knotts, Tech's director of federal relations based in Washington, D.C.

Prior to his time at the British Consulate, Cullen handled legislative affairs as a contractor for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). Cullen began his career on Capitol Hill working for a member of Congress and for the House Committee on Armed Services.

To learn more about Government and Community Relations at Georgia Tech, visit www.gov.gatech.edu.

LEGISLATIVE EVENTS

Jan. 20–21
Wing-Man is a laugh-out-loud and surprisingly poignant "one-clown show" that explores obsession with social media. In the tradition of Keaton, Chaplin, and Irwin, award-winning performer Mark Gandik wordlessly battles a series of unsolvable 21st century obstacles with only a stage-size interactive computer screen, his iPhone, and a tech-savvy audience. Shows take place at 7:30 p.m. at the Furst Center for the Arts.

arts.gatech.edu/ferstcenter

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Jan. 12–13
The Campus Recreation Center hosts free G.I.T. FIT demos for all members. More information at crc.gatech.edu/giftfit

TRAINING

Jan. 15
The Georgia Tech Drupal Users Group hosts its January meeting from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the Bradley Conference Room in Highland Bakery.

drupal.gatech.edu

SEMINARS & LECTURES

Jan. 5
The Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning hosts its Spring Teaching Kickoff from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Attendees are invited to drop in for one of three sessions, or attend all day. For full session descriptions and registration, visit c.c.gatech.edu/teachingkickoff

WEB EVENTS

www.whistle.gatech.edu • THE WHISTLE

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The Courage to Lead: Tech’s 2016 MLK Celebration

This year’s commemoration of the life and work of Martin Luther King Jr. includes an ambitious slate of events organized by faculty, staff, and students. It also celebrates the life of John F. Kennedy, who gave the 2015 Martin Luther King Jr. Lecture at Georgia Tech. He died on Aug. 15, 2015.

This year, Jeff Johnson, a D.C.-based award-winning journalist, social activist, and political commentator, will speak on the topic of “Unclaimed Legacy: Who Will Lead the Next Social Movement?” The lecture will take place on Jan. 13 at 3 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom.

More events are listed below. For a full overview, visit www.c.gatech.edu/mlk.

Campuswide Student Celebration Jan. 14, 7 p.m., Student Center Ballroom Student speeches, cultural performances, and a candlelighting ceremony. Reception to follow.

Arts@Tech Presents Roger Guenver Smith: Rodney King Jan. 15-16, 8 p.m. (each night), Ferst Center for the Arts

MLK Day of Service Jan. 18, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Participants will serve in teams and engage in service projects with Metro Atlanta community partners. To register, visit www.engage.gatech.edu.

MLK “Sunday” Supper Jan. 21, 6 to 8 p.m., Bill Moore Student Success Center, President’s Suite
Come together over a meal to engage in meaningful dialogue about the 2016 MLK Celebration events, King’s legacy, and the courage to lead. To register, visit www.engage.gatech.edu.

FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

The Design-Build Institute of America awarded Baabak Ashuri, associate professor in the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, a Distinguished Design-Build Leadership Award. This award recognizes lawmakers, practitioners, and teachers who have demonstrated leadership in the advancement of effective design-build practices and in the promotion of design-build as a project delivery method of choice.

Kaye Husbands Fealing, chair of the Ivan Allen College’s School of Public Policy, has been appointed to two committees for the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine: the Committee on Developing Indicators for Undergraduate STEM Education, and the Panel on Reengineering the Census Bureau’s Annual Economic Surveys.

Elizabeth Mynatt, professor in the School of Interactive Computing and director of the Institute for People and Technology, and Santosh Vempala, distinguished professor in the School of Computer Science, were recognized as 2015 Associates for Computing Machinery (ACM) Fellows. Mynatt was recognized for contributions to human-centered computing and the development of health information technologies. Vempala was recognized for contributions to algorithms for convex sets and probability distributions.

Armistead (Ted) Russell earned the Alumni Achievement Award from the Washington State University Alumni Association for his work in air quality science tied to health, public policy, and sustainable development.

The Georgia Affiliate of the American Woman’s Society of Certified Public Accountants selected Deborah Turner, John and Wendi Wells Associate Professor for Teaching Excellence in the Scheller College of Business, as the 2016 Legacies, Leaders & Luminaries Honoree. The honor will be conferred during a special awards dinner on Jan. 7 at the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center.

Donald Webster, associate chair and professor in the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, was named a fellow of the Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography.

Craig Womack, assistant dean and director of Undergraduate Programs, was named GT1000 Outstanding Instructor of the Year for 2015.

Sudhakar Vamanachili, Joseph M. Pettit Professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, has been appointed a Regents Professor. The appointment was effective Nov. 1, 2015.

Nominate Colleagues for Annual Faculty, Staff Awards

Celebrate your colleagues by nominating them for a 2015 award.

Georgia Tech’s Staff Awards recognize and reward employees for consistently demonstrating high levels of performance throughout the past year. All staff, regardless of job function, are eligible.

The Staff Awards cover three categories, with a total of seven awards, and monetary prizes ranging from $1,000 to $2,500. Awards recognize Administrative Excellence, Outstanding Management in Action, and Outstanding Staff Performance in Staff Leadership, Innovation, Process Improvement Excellence, Entrepreneurship, and Service to the Community.

Anyone can nominate a colleague through a new, enhanced online nomination form. Nominations require three letters of recommendation, and individuals and/or teams may be nominated for the Administrative Excellence Award and the Outstanding Staff Performance Awards. Submissions will be accepted until Friday, Jan. 15, at 5 p.m.

Award recipients are selected by a cross-functional campus committee. Further information on the awards, nomination criteria, and instructions can be found at www.gatech.edu/staffawards.

For faculty, awards recognize various areas of excellence, including teaching, research, career progression, and advising. The deadline for faculty award nominations is Friday, Jan. 29. A full listing of these awards can be found at www.specialevents.gatech.edu/honorsluncheon.

All faculty and staff award winners will be recognized at the Georgia Tech Faculty and Staff Awards Luncheon on Friday, April 22, from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom.

The Heat is On: Mind These Tips for Safe Space Heater Use

VICTOR ROGERS INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

While winter has been mild thus far, many will reach for space heaters for a bit of extra warmth once cooler weather takes hold. 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. That’s why 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 it is 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.

Georgia Tech’s Fire Safety Office also provides on-campus safety classes on 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).

MISCELLANEOUS

Jan. 5 Get a behind-the-scenes tour of the Student Center to learn about how it prepares to “reinvent” in coming years. Tours take place on Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to noon and meet at the second floor information desk. c.gatech.edu/reinovation

Jan. 11 First day of spring 2016 semester.

Jan. 12 The Scheller College of Business hosts an MBA Information Session from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Scheller College of Business. Register at c.gatech.edu/jan12mba

Jan. 13 Men’s Tennis hosts East Tennessee State University at 2:30 p.m. at the Ken Byars Tennis Complex. The team will then host Presbyterian University at 7:30 p.m. ramblinwreck.com

Jan. 14 The Georgia Tech Women’s Basketball Team hosts the University of North Carolina at McMachin Pavilion at 7 p.m. ramblinwreck.com

Jan. 14 The MLK Campuswide Student Celebration will feature speeches, cultural performances, and a candlelighting ceremony. To register, visit www.diversity.gatech.edu/mlk2016.

Jan. 18 Faculty and staff are invited to participate in the sixth annual MLK Day of Service, a campuswide initiative honoring the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. Information on projects is online at c.gatech.edu/mlkservice

For a more comprehensive listing of events, visit calendar.gatech.edu.
HIDDEN GEORGIA TECH | INSIDE TECH TOWER

Georgia Tech’s most recognizable landmark is the Lettie Pate Whitehead Evans Administration Building, better known as Tech Tower. The four-story building, one of the original buildings when Tech opened its doors in October 1888, is part of the historic district called “The Hill.” The Tower itself, with its storied history, is another three floors tall. Take a look inside.

The Administration Building is currently under renovation but typically houses the Registrar’s Office, the College of Engineering Dean’s Office, and the College of Sciences Dean’s Office, as well as Highland Bakery. Inside the uppermost part of the Tower (top photo), a ladder attached to the wall leads to the top of the inside of the finial. The outlines of the neon letters can be seen through each window.

(1) The first level of the Tower is a windowless room above the fourth floor. A wooden ladder provides access to the Tower’s second floor. (2) The second level of the Tower is a holding area for replacement parts for the Tower’s neon letters. The letters T-E-C-H have been outlined in neon since the 1950s. (3) The third and top floor of the Tower has windows on all four sides. On a clear day, you can see for miles. From the ground floor (Highland Bakery level) to the top of Tech Tower is 145 feet. (4) Photographer Rob Felt could not resist taking a selfie.

See more photos from inside the Tower at www.c.gatech.edu/tower.

CLASSIFIEDS

REAL ESTATE/ROOMMATES

For rent: Hilton Head Island, 2BR/2BA, April 2–9 at Marriott Grande Ocean Resort, beach front, $1,900/wk. For more information and pictures visit www.vrbo.com/401900. Contact Carla Strisher, carla.strisher@oit.gatech.edu, (803) 507-8185.

For rent: 3BR/2BA home on 0.7 acres inside perimeter near I-285, Hwy. 78, Decatur, and Emory. Renovated w/ hardwood floors, new appliances, washer/dryer, Druid Hills High School district. Available Nov. 30. $1,400/mo. Call 706-369-3848.

For rent: 2BR/1BA bungalow, minutes to Tech, quiet intown neighborhood (NW ATL), HW floors, renovated, central HVAC, DW, disposal, screened back porch, fenced back yard, W/D, carport, pets OK. $975/mo. Contact: suzanne.bock@gatech.edu.

Seeking a responsible, clean, dog-loving, non-smoking roommate in lovely 2BR/1BA (1,050+ sq. ft.) Ansley Park garden apartment with parking. 2 mi. from Tech near bus/train lines. Near Piedmont Park and Atlanta Botanical Garden. Contact theprado@gmail.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

Looking for a carpool partner for the daily commute from East Cobb to Tech campus. Email bdespy@hotmail.com.


Wanted: Family downhill ski equipment, to purchase or borrow. Preferred sizes: 95cm (kids); 165cm (women’s); 185cm (men’s). Boots: 11.5c (kids); 9.5 (women’s); 10-11 (men’s). Contact rustin.meyer@psych.gatech.edu.

Sofa and loveseat matching set. Sofa is 84”W and loveseat is 60”W. Both pieces recline at each end. Very good condition. No rips, tears, or stains. Pictures available upon request. Selling set for $350. Contact Rita Brown, 770-928-7344 (home) or 678-360-7811 (cell).


Looking for carpool: Commuting from Athens every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Leave around 9 a.m. from Athens and 7 p.m. from Georgia Tech to avoid heavy traffic. Contact frandrewkr@gmail.com.

Free yellow jacket nest removal. Nests to be used for research in the School of Biology. Call 404-385-6311 or e-mail michael.goodisman@biology.gatech.edu.

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