A BILLION YEARS IN THE MAKING

On Feb. 11, the National Science Foundation announced that LIGO – the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory — had observed a gravitational wave. It took nearly 1.5 billion years to arrive and was here for less than 200 milliseconds, but the microscopic movement was enough for scientists to claim one of the most significant physics discoveries this century. Gravitational waves are ripples in the same fabric of the universe that bends and distorts space-time. They are produced during violent cosmic disturbances. Twelve Georgia Tech researchers were involved in the discovery, including Associate Professor Deirdre Shoemaker, Ph.D. candidate Karan Jani, and Postdoctoral Research Fellow James Clark (pictured above). Learn more about this remarkable discovery at www.c.gatech.edu/waves.

New Seminar Series to ‘Inform Georgia Tech’

The Georgia Tech Staff Council is hosting a new series to help make sense of some of the complicated operations of an institute of higher education.

The first in the Inform Georgia Tech Series will focus on budgets and financing with guest Jim Kirk, executive director of Institute Budget and Planning Administration. At “Colors of Tech Money,” Kirk will discuss Tech’s budget and revenue sources, how the budget is formed and allocated, and why different funding sources are needed for various expenses. The event takes place Feb. 23 from 11 a.m. to noon in the Clary Theatre, Bill Moore Student Success Center.

The series is planned to be quarterly. Future topics will include campus space planning and higher education legislative issues. Employees are also encouraged to submit ideas or suggestions for future sessions. Submit ideas at www.staffcouncil.gatech.edu.

Spring Projects Improve Landscaping, Infrastructure

Several upcoming construction projects will bring upgrades to high traffic areas of campus.

Beginning Monday, Feb. 15, Tech Green will be closed for improvements to enhance the soil and drainage system of this popular green space. System upgrades will help the field recover more quickly after heavy rains and intense use, ultimatelyresulting in more usable green space. The project will also include upgrades to the irrigation system and the aesthetics of the area.

By design, Tech Green is like no other green space on campus.

Construction on Cherry Street begins in March and will improve landscaping around the historic Corliss Pump.

Clough Commons. The water is used to flush toilets in Clough Commons and for landscape irrigation. This reuse substantially reduces the amount of stormwater put into the City of Atlanta sewer system.

Construction is anticipated to be complete by mid-May, but Tech Green will remain closed until August to allow the new grass to take root. Fencing will surround the area, but pedestrian access will remain on all four sides. Food trucks will be relocated.

For those who plan campus events, alternate venues include the

New Sexual Assault Training Mandatory for All Employees

Following the mandatory sexual assault training requirement launched last fall for incoming students, Georgia Tech, along with the other University System of Georgia (USG) institutions, is now requiring all faculty and staff to participate in an online educational course: Haven for Faculty & Staff.

This training requirement is intended to enable faculty and staff to better assist students and other community members, including colleagues, impacted by sexual assault, relationship violence, and stalking.

“This is a vital component to a more
Leadership Responds to Calls for Greater Gender Inclusiveness

MICHAEL HAGGARTY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

This past fall, President G.P. "Bud" Peterson initiated a series of listening sessions with several groups of students, faculty, and staff to explore the issues of gender equity and inclusiveness at Georgia Tech.

Participants were encouraged to not only reflect on personal experiences, but also to offer specific suggestions and ideas that would improve the campus culture.

While each group had concerns relative to their standing at Tech, several common themes emerged. The faculty and staff groups spoke of challenges related to salary equity issues and career advancement opportunities, as well as the need for improved support during parental leave. The absence of peer and mentoring networks were frequently cited, as well as the need for a tracking mechanism to monitor recruitment and retention.

"A diverse community is one of the important values articulated in our Strategic Plan," Peterson said. "We are committed to ensuring that individuals, regardless of gender, feel they are both supported and challenged in their work. This is one of the hallmarks of a 21st century research university, and we are committed to work together as a community to fulfill that vision."

Last month, Peterson and his executive leadership team reviewed the recommendations, directing them to the appropriate academic and administrative units — including Human Resources, Student Life, Academic Affairs, and others — with a request that each unit develop plans and initiate implementation.

"I have asked our Strategic Plan Advisory Group, chaired by Dr. David Frost, to oversee the progress in the areas of gender equity and inclusion," Peterson said. "They are well positioned to monitor and report to campus leadership on areas of improvement and remaining challenges."

"I am grateful to those who have taken their time to share their concerns and very appreciative of the candor and free exchange of ideas that resulted. As a result of their efforts and involvement, Georgia Tech will emerge a stronger institution."

Survey to Assess Graduate Student Experience

KRISTEN BAILEY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

A study being conducted on campus this month asks graduate students to provide feedback on all aspects of their experience at Georgia Tech.

The Graduate Student Experience Survey is the first of its kind on campus and is tailored specifically to the graduate student audience. The Graduate Student Government Association (GSGA) is spearheading the effort, with support from several campus units.

"We want to give the administrators, the school officials, the faculty, and the students a comprehensive snapshot of graduate student life so that they can have the evidence in hand to make serious change," said Marc Canellas, president of GSGA.

The survey asks questions about various elements of graduate student life, including advising, finances, academics, teaching, research, and support. It is modeled after the Undergraduate Student Experience Survey that was conducted in 2015.

"I saw how influential the Undergraduate Student Experience Survey was for legitimizing the concerns that had been widespread among undergraduates," said Canellas, who was part of a task force on the learning environment that was formed partly in response to concerns expressed by survey respondents. He was struck by the comments and solutions brought forth by the group.

"They already knew what the structural and personnel issues were. They had already been concerned about these issues. Most had already developed ideas about how to make undergraduate student life a better experience. However, they had never been given the political capital a time to find a consensus and implement change. This is exactly what I want to see happen for graduate student life," he said.

All graduate students have received an email inviting them to take the survey. Responses require a login to ensure authenticity, but this information is separated from the answers to keep respondents anonymous. The survey will be open until Monday, Feb. 29.

"The data we collect will help everyone — from administrators to faculty members — make more informed decisions when it comes to serving our graduate students," said Susan Cozzens, vice provost for Graduate Education and Faculty Affairs. "I hope that every graduate student at Georgia Tech will take advantage of this confidential opportunity to give us feedback on what we're doing right — and could be doing better."

The 2015 undergraduate survey was the second of its kind. The first was fielded in 2009. Results of the 2015 undergraduate survey were shared with the board of regents, the provost, the faculty, and the students. It is modeled after the Undergraduate Student Experience Survey that was conducted in 2015.

"I am grateful to those who have taken their time to share their concerns and very appreciative of the candor and free exchange of ideas that resulted. As a result of their efforts and involvement, Georgia Tech will emerge a stronger institution."

EVENTS

ARTS & CULTURE

Through March 25
The Stubbs Gallery hosts the architectural work of three Georgia Tech alumni who are supported by the French, Swiss, and German Consulates. The gallery is located in East Architecture and open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Feb. 19, 20, 25-27
DramaTech Theater presents "The Five Faces of Evanim Frost," a wild ride as five friends vie to increase their status through what they reveal on the Internet. All showings begin at 8 p.m. in DramaTech Theater, dramatech.org

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Feb. 17
A Diversity Brown Bag called "BlackLivesMatter" will discuss the intersection of activism and self-care in the era of the #BlackLivesMatter movement, from 6 to 7 p.m. in Room 117, Student Services (Flag) Building.

diversityprograms.gatech.edu

Feb. 18
How do you measure up to a Navy SEAL? Compete in one or more Navy SEAL Challenge events from 1 to 6 p.m. at the Campus Recreation Center. c.gatech.edu/navyseal

TRAINING

Feb. 18
Learn how to gather and respond to teaching feedback at this session from the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning, from 11 a.m. to noon in the Crescent Room, Student Center. Register to attend at cetl.gatech.edu

March 2
The Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning hosts a session on Teaching Transformations in Response to Student Feedback. Faculty members will share how they have used student feedback to transform their approach to teaching. The session takes place from noon to 1 p.m. in the Crescent Room, Student Center. cetl.gatech.edu

CONSTRUCTION, from page 1
Instructor Center Lawn and Tech Tower Lawn.

At the south end of Tech Walk, the historic campus area continues to see improvements. A Cherry Street project will refresh vegetation, replace materials, and restore quality to the landscaping and hard surfaces in the area to the west of Tech Tower. When complete, the Corbis pump that many are fond of photographing will have a refreshed surrounding space that includes tables and chairs, benches, and bike racks. Cherry Street will eventually be visually transformed by brick pavers, which also benefit Tech’s stormwater management by reducing runoff, after the completion of the Library Renewal Project. Construction at Cherry Street begins March 1 and is expected to be complete by August.

To the north of Tech Green, a significant section of steam pipes is being replaced along Atlantic Drive. These steam pipes, originally installed in the early 1950s, support several surrounding buildings and their heating and research needs. In addition to utilities, the project will also improve the landscape and hardscapes in the area to create a more pedestrian-friendly avenue in the middle of campus, mirroring the environment on Atlantic Drive toward the Engineered Biosystems Building. The project will also improve accessibility and improve lighting in the area. Work will begin in early March and is anticipated to be complete by the end of October.

For more information and visuals of the project sites, visit www.facilities.gatech.edu

THE WHISTLE is the official newspaper of Georgia Tech’s Faculty and Staff. The WHISTLE is produced biweekly by the Communications Department in cooperation with the scho...
A HISTORIC CAMPAIGN

It’s been six weeks since the conclusion of the most successful fundraising campaign in Georgia Tech’s history. Campaign Georgia Tech, which ended on Dec. 31, 2015, was historic in every sense of the word. It garnered more support and engaged more alumni and friends than ever before, bringing unprecedented new resources to the Institute that will be influential for years to come. We looked back at a few Campaign highlights and landmark achievements.

BY THE NUMBERS

$1.8 billion raised in total

104 endowed chairs and professorships

$276 million for intercollegiate athletics

140 Tech Promise scholarships, for qualified students whose family income is less than $33,300 per year

$354 million for undergraduate and graduate student support

$792 million given by Georgia Tech alumni

20+ facilities and features constructed or renovated


A $50 million gift from Roberta and Ernest “Ernie” Scheller Jr. (IM 1952, Honorary Ph.D. 2013) created the Scheller College of Business in 2012.

Four dean’s chairs and three school chairs were established, including the Southern Company Dean’s Chair in the College of Engineering held by Gary May.

For more comprehensive listing of events, or to add your own, visit calendar.gatech.edu.
With Presidents Day on Feb. 15 and the 2016 presidential election in full swing, this is a good time to look at a few books written by or about some who have held the nation’s highest office.

The Whistle asked several Georgia Tech professors to make recommendations. These range from books by or about former President Jimmy Carter, who attended Georgia Tech before completing a degree at the U.S. Naval Academy, to Alexander Hamilton, who was one of the country’s Founding Fathers but could not run for president because he was born outside of what became the United States.

What the Heck Are You Up To, Mr. President? Jimmy Carter, America’s ‘Malaise,’ and the Speech That Should Have Changed the Country by Kevin Mattson, Bloomsbury USA 2009

"President Carter gave a speech in July 1979 that tried to provide a spiritual uplift for Americans focused on an economic crisis, domestic scandals, Three Mile Island, and a supposed attack by a rabbi on the president’s rowboat. He never used the word ‘malaise’ but the speech quickly became characterized and satirized as a sign of a failed presidency. The core of the speech was a set of proposals on American policy — some very unrealistic, but others that could have set the nation on a very different path toward energy independence. The book is a case study in politics, leadership, media spin, and how the best and worst of our political instincts interplay.”

— Richard Barke, associate professor, School of Public Policy

Always a Reckoning and Other Poems by Jimmy Carter, Crown Archetype 1994

"Percy Bysshe Shelley famously argued, ‘Poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world.’ Being president of the United States seems the antithesis of the ‘unacknowledged legislator.’ Perhaps this is why only one president has published a collection of poetry. Jimmy Carter’s collection, Always a Reckoning and Other Poems provides a personal, often nostalgic, glimpse into his life. In his poem, ‘Trout,’ he writes, ‘Testing oneself is best when done alone,’ and in these humble verses he shares some of his life’s lessons in a way only poetry can.”

— Karen Head, director of the Communication Center, and assistant professor, School of Literature, Media, and Communication


"While not a presidential biography in the strict sense, this award winner is arguably the most important book published in years on Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s New Deal and its aftermath. Fear Itself explores the roots of the New Deal, its strengths, and its shortcomings while situating Roosevelt’s efforts in a global context. It is a provocative book, crucial for understanding U.S. history long after Roosevelt left office.”

— Daniel Amstutz, assistant professor, School of History and Sociology

Eleanor and Franklin: The Story of Their Relationship, Based on Eleanor Roosevelt’s Private Papers by Joseph P. Lash, W.W. Norton & Co. 1971

"Eleanor and Franklin explores the relationship of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, whose progressive ideals and initiatives inspired the country during the Depression and World War II. Starting with their childhoods, Lash depicts the complex intertwining of their public and private lives, their exuberant family, and their political maneuverings and activities. Although Eleanor was often Franklin's stand-in as a speaker or a representative, ‘her profound trust in her husband’s leadership . . . did not keep her from disagreeing with him.’ Their effectiveness as public servants depended on their compassion for others and their bold aspirations for social improvement.”

— Carol Colatelli, professor and associate dean for graduate studies, Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts

Haven, from page 1

classifiers

REAL ESTATE/ ROOMMATES

For rent: Nice, clean 1BR/1BA apt. in Home Park, minutes from campus. Washer/dryer, new appliances, hardwood floors, updated kitchen and baths. Front and back screened porches. Large fenced yard. Refrigerator, dishwasher, washer/dryer connections. $800/mo. Contact Butch, owner/agent: 770-830-6668.

For rent: 398/BA home on 0.7 acres inside.permaller near I-285, Hwy. 78, Decatur, and Emory. Rennovated w/ hardwood floors, new appliances, washer/dryer, Druid Hills High School district. 1BD,450$mo. Call 706-369-3848.

For rent: 2BR/1BA bungalow, minutes to Tech, quiet intown neighborhood. HW 471, HW 40, central HVAC, DW, disposal, screened back porch, fenced back yard, WD, carpet, pets OK. $800/mo. Call 404-512-6441.

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

Miscellaneous

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

River Hawk 35-boat and Torqeedo motor for sale, Riverhawk 13’2" B & 2013 Camo. Torqeedo Germany Made, 2013.boat for sale. Includes following accessories: Lowrance DSI Fish Finder, Dual Duracell batteries, guest on-board battery charger, trolling motor 9-2012, two installed folding fishing seats, used only 1x. Northwest Atlanta area. Contact: suzanne.bock@gatech.edu.

Seeking a reliable, clean, dog-loving, non-smoking roommate in lovely 2BR/1BA (0.550 sq. ft.) Ansley Park garden apartment with parking. 2 mi from Tech near I-285 in. $975/mo. Contact: susanne.bock@gatech.edu.

A fine writer, statesman, military hero, abolitionist, and creator of the U.S. banking system, Hamilton was the only Founding Father to understand that the future lay in industry, not farming. Reading Chernow’s excellent biography introduces us to all the Founding Fathers and flushes out the man most know only as the face on the $10 bill and the victim of a tragic duel.”

— Carol Senf, professor, School of Literature, Media, and Communication

What to Read during an Election Year: Presidents and Founders

For more information, visit www.c.gatech.edu/haven.

Stay tuned to future issues of The Whistle for more election season reading recommendations.

Tried by War: Abraham Lincoln as Commander in Chief by James M. McPherson, Penguin 2008

"Abraham Lincoln lived what was, by several measures, the most singular life in American history. No president has had to face more difficult trials, including developing and implementing the national strategy for winning the only essential war this country has fought since its creation. This consisted of the geographic, diplomatic, military, and economic isolation and reduction of the Confederacy. James McPherson deals with the military part of this in his book. The new United States could not have chosen a better first president than George Washington. He was, among many other things, the ‘Master of Farewells,’ a man who knew when it was best for all to leave office after a job well done. He has not received as much attention as he continues to deserve in the last few decades. Ron Chernow’s book helps to correct this.”

— Seymour "Sy" Goodman, professor, jointly at the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs and the College of Computing

Alexander Hamilton by Ron Chernow, Penguin 2004

“At 800-plus pages, Ron Chernow’s Alexander Hamilton qualifies as a doorstop as well as the biography of a fascinating man and the inspiration for a popular Broadway musical. A fine writer, statesman, military hero, abolitionist, and creator of the U.S. banking system, Hamilton was the only Founding Father to understand that the future lay in industry, not farming. Reading Chernow’s excellent biography introduces us to all the Founding Fathers and flushes out the man most know only as the face on the $10 bill and the victim of a tragic duel.”

— Carol Senf, professor, School of Literature, Media, and Communication