Listening in

Presidential Search Committee holds campus forums

Members of the Georgia Tech Presidential Search committee held a “listening tour” with various campus groups last week on Tuesday, Oct. 7. Committee chair and University System of Georgia (USG) Regents Willis Potts along with search consultant R. William Funk explained the process, but also solicited input from the faculty, staff, student and administration attendees.

“Our goal is to find the absolute best person for this presidency,” Potts said. “But we are here to understand what the best means.”

The duo provided an overview of the search process and what it means for the Institute, which is somewhat of a unique position after Coughlin’s 14 years of leadership. “The average tenure for a university president is four to six years,” said Funk, whose search firm specializes in higher education.

Currently, Funk says, anywhere from 10 to 15 other institutions are undergoing a presidential search. Funk said he feels confident that a qualified pool of candidates will soon be selected. “Typically, the best candidate won’t apply,” he said. “Or she is usually referred to us by a third party.”

By taking information gathered from the Institute’s constituencies during these listening tours, as well as investigating the firm’s network of university school chairs and administrators, a large initial pool of candidates will be.

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University System of Georgia Regent Willis Potts and R. William Funk & Associates principal William Funk listen to campus groups on their preparation for a national search to find Tech’s next president. Potts is chair of the Georgia Tech Presidential Search Committee.

Schwan earns HP Award for computing

College of Computing Professor Karsten Schwan recently received a 2008 HP Labs Innovation Research Award to work with HP Labs, HP’s central research arm, to help solve some of the key problems in developing exascale machines.

“The need for exascale-sized machines is well-established,” Schwan said. “With exascale machines, high-performance computing will be able to operate at finer resolution, biologists will be able to model more complex systems and businesses will be able to run and manage many applications at the same time on a single large machine.”

While most personal computers today can process a few hundred thousand calculations per second, computer scientists are laying the groundwork for exascale machines that will process more than a million trillion calculations per second. Just a few months ago, scientists reached the long-sought-after high-performance computing milestone of one petaflop by processing more than a thousand trillion calculations per second.

The high-impact research award, one of only two grants for exascale research and 41 overall to professors around the world, encourages open collaboration with HP Labs. The award amount is renewable for a total of three years based on research progress and HP business requirements. Schwan’s expertise in high performance and enterprise computing will help him solve some of the challenges surrounding exascale systems.

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We believe that machines will reach

Search continued, page 3

Breznitz wins book award

The American Political Science Association has awarded Assistant Professor Dan Breznitz the 2008 Don K. Price Award for Best Book in Science and Technology Politics for his book, “Innovation and the State: Political Choice and Strategies for Growth in Israel, Taiwan and Ireland.”

Breznitz, who holds a joint appointment in the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs and the School of Public Policy in the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts, explored the three emerging economies through 482 interviews and numerous site visits, encompassing five years of research.

The book examines how Ireland, Israel and Taiwan have each carved out a niche for their information technology (IT) industries by investigating the different business models from each and from those used by countries with already established technology industries. Specific actions by the state contributed to

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Schwan continued, page 3

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selected. 90 percent of which Funk says will come from fairly traditional educational backgrounds.

Fotts added that the initial group will be winnowed down to 10 candidates, who in turn will be interviewed by the search committee. Then, when further trimmed to five, candidates will again travel to Georgia to be interviewed by the USG Board of Regents. During this time, the names of all candidates will be private, open to board members only.

A challenge of the search, Fotts said, is that prior to the naming of a USG institution president, state law requires the names of three, unranked finalists be posted for 14 days. This, he said, is the reason many candidates may elect not to be considered for the position, as it could put their current working relationship on rocky ground—particularly if he or she isn’t chosen.

Overall, the duo said the process was moving smoothly, and that it is hoped a president can be selected before March 2009.

During both faculty and staff sessions, many attendees seemed to echo the sentiment that the ideal candidate “looks and talks like (former president) Wayne Clough.” The ability to reach across disciplines and literal borders was touted, as several faculty members emphasized the next president should embrace both globalization and the best qualities and skills of administration management, while understanding the requirements and rigors behind a research university.

Faculty attendees requested a president who valued accessibility to all institute constituencies, and others stated that Clough’s focus on education along with research is a quality that should be emulated. Several requests were made for a president from an engineering background, but this was not necessarily in universal agreement, as one attendee stated that “Our mission statement goes beyond just engineering”—defining the technological research institute of the 21st century—to include technology.” An Ivan Allen College of Engineering professor “acknowledged the motion” for an engineer, using the words of former Tech Provost Jean-Loup Chameau that a “renaissance engineer” understands the collaborative nature of the Institute and would help foster and continue the collaborative campus atmosphere.

One faculty attendee suggested the next president should investigate the 21st century’s “inordinately growing threats to the homeland.” The session, the attendee continued, would most likely be to train citizens in disaster preparedness and response to provide assistance in the event of an emergency. Sessions will be from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday evenings in October. Sessions last 90 minutes, and attendance on disaster preparedness, fire safety, team organization, search and rescue, basic first aid and disaster psychology.

Members of ACERT will conduct the course sessions.

Eventually, one of the Tech program has grown, we would like to use in-house instructors, such as Tech Police officers and even participants who have competed the course,” said Mattingly. Seating is limited to 50 attendees, and registration will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

“For a candidate to be selected, it’s important to keep the Tech program vibrant. It’s a way to encourage community outreach and continue teaching students about the importance of disaster preparedness and response to provide assistance in the event of an emergency. Sessions will be from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday evenings in October. Sessions last 90 minutes, and attendance is open to the public. Topics include disaster preparedness, fire safety, team organization, search, rescue, basic first aid and disaster psychology.”

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Dan Treadaway
Communications & Marketing

Latin America in general—and Costa Rica in particular—have made considerable progress in recent years on the economic development front. The region's standard of living is improving, and more money is flowing into Latin America's economy today than ever before. Despite these successes, however, Costa Rica and Latin America continue to face many challenges associated with the economic development process.

In an effort to address these challenges, an anonymous donor has committed $2.5 million to establish the Georgia Tech Center for Productivity Engineering. The Center—a joint venture between the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering and the College of Management—will partner with public agencies, private industry, and academic institutions in Costa Rica and throughout Latin America to:

- encourage interdisciplinary research on economic development in the region that would involve collaboration with U.S. and Latin American researchers and educators and involved students;
- create and deliver undergraduate and graduate engineering and business curricula in support of this research goal;
- interact with the region's business community in order to promote economic growth that is protective and mindful of the region's commitment to protect its unique environmental resources.

Because of the growing importance of technology throughout the world, there is a critical need to engage institutions that have not only the required technological leadership, but also the ability to integrate their technical leadership with public policy and cultural understanding," says Steve Sabu, dean of the College of Management. "Such institutions, by creating interdisciplinary teams and create the partnerships between governments, industry, and universities that are required for a significant impact on economic growth and sustainability."

"The activities of the Center for Productivity Engineering will help educate and train professional leaders in both engineering and business," says Chelsea C. White, III, chair of the School of Industrial and Systems Engineering. "Part of the Center's mission will be to help Latin American leaders better understand the relationships between free enterprise, productivity, and respect for consumer interests coupled with respect for the environment. The Center will also strive to help business leaders develop an understanding of national and regional economic systems and their growth and stability."

Initially, the Center will work to develop new partnerships with organizations such as INCAE (a national research consortium in Costa Rica with modern research facilities focused on manufacturing), the University of Costa Rica, El Instituto Politecnico de Costa Rica, Fundación Omar Dengó, and the Cámara de Industriales de Costa Rica, maximizing the synergy of their expertise and resources with those of Georgia Tech.

Breznitz, cont'd from page 1

these countries—not previously known for incubating high-technology industry—and shaped the economies into technology powerhouses.

"The research started when I was still at MIT [Massachusetts Institute of Technology]," he said. "What brought me to this research is my experience as a software entrepreneur during the rapid change of the Israeli economy in the early 1990s. When I was growing up in Israel, it was a nice, quasi-socialist country—not an economic star by any means."

Breznitz says that by the mid-1970s—side by side with the currency being devalued and changed twice and an annual inflation of about 1,000 percent—a shift occurred on the policy level within the Israeli government. "Within a few years after the worst economic crisis, technology and software companies were opening. It was almost an overnight sensation, transformation the country into an outpost of Silicon Valley and an amazing economic revolution." In looking into what caused this turnaround, Breznitz said he noticed most of the business success started with policy changes. "To understand what was happening, I needed to look around at other economies." He started by examining Taiwan and Ireland, both of which were also achieving explosive success in the IT sector.

In "Innovation and the State," Breznitz not only explores the actions of the three states, but also suggests avenues and tactics others could take with state-orchestrated information technology innovation in the now-global economy. "These developments could learn some things," Breznitz said. "First, by understanding what these small states have done, they could use opportunities created by the global changes of the IT industry and its fragmentation into discrete stages of development and production.

Secondly, the study shows what capabilities are needed to achieve success on each specific stage. For example, the United States can understand what is happening in these economies, Breznitz says, then it could be understood what jobs can be created and what ground is being lost in the global IT marketplace. "How can the U.S. use this global system to sustain its advantage?"

"Innovation and the State" was published last year. Anywhere from 40 to 80 books are considered for the Don K. Price Award with an anonomynous nomination process.

"I'm happy with the result of the book," Breznitz said. "This award truly is a complete surprise. And I see it as another proof that Georgia Tech's unique model of interdisciplinary social-scienc econs engineering is now impacting the disciplines themselves. Without the support I received here to conduct such research on science, technology, international affairs and public policy, the study could not have been possible."

—Don Breznitz
Professor, Public Policy and International Affairs
Arts & Culture

September 24–28
DramaTech Theatre presents its fifth annual Black Box Improv Festival, featuring 13 shows, 57 performances and 150 comedians. Performers include those from Atlanta’s improvisation community as well as nationally touring acts. For more information and times, visit www.dramatech.org.

September 26
Atlanta-based Arrested Development performs at the Ferst Center for the Arts at 8 p.m. For more information, visit www.ferstcenter.gatech.edu.

October 3
The Ferst Center for the Arts has added a 5:30 p.m. performance of the political comedy and musical group Capitol Steps. The 8 p.m. show has sold out. For more information, visit www.ferstcenter.gatech.edu.

Conferences & Lectures

September 23
University of South Carolina Professor Catherine Murphy presents “Three Short Stories About Gold Nanoparticles,” at 3 p.m. in room G011 of the Molecular Science & Engineering Building. For more information, visit www.chemistry.gatech.edu.

September 24
The Georgia Tech Fire Safety office presents a “Mock Dorm Room Fire,” from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Library parking lot. For more information, visit www.safety.gatech.edu.

Susan Herbst, executive vice chancellor of the University System of Georgia and professor of public policy in the Ivan Allen College, presents “Media and American Democracy,” from 3 to 4 p.m., in the Technology Research Square Building auditorium. For more information, visit www.cc.gatech.edu.

College of Management Professor Emeritus David Hrdlicka and co-author of “Change the Way You Lead Change” speaks as part of the College’s IMPACT series from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., in the LeCraw Auditorium. For more information, visit http://ile.gatech.edu/impact.html.

September 25
City and Regional Planning Professor Steven French, director of the Center for Geographic Information Systems, presents “Risk Assessment: Estimating the Consequences of Earthquakes and Other Natural Hazards,” as part of the College of Architecture’s COA Research Forums, from 11 a.m. to noon, in the Architecture Library. For more information, visit www.coa.gatech.edu.

College of Computing Professor of the Practice Mark Braunstein presents a GUV Brown Bag on the formation of a new School of Biomedical Informatics, a joint agreement between Tech and Emory University, from noon to 1 p.m., in room 152 of Technology Square Research Building. For more information, visit www.gvu.gatech.edu.

October 1
Author Jonah Lehrer presents “The Future of Science is Art: Or What We Can Learn About the Brain from a 19th-Century French Chef and Kanye West,” at 7:30 p.m., in the LeCraw Auditorium. The event is sponsored by the Georgia Tech Honors Program. For more information, visit www.honorsprogram.gatech.edu.

October 2
Case Western Reserve University Professor Mark Turner presents “Conceptual Blending in Higher-Order Human Cognition,” from 4:30 to 6 p.m., in the Clary Theater. This seminar kicks off the School of Literature, Communication and Culture’s Distinguished Speaker Series, titled “Minds, Machines and Media.” For more information, visit www.fcc.gatech.edu.

Classifieds

Automobiles/Motorcycles

2007 Ford Explorer Sport Trac, Black, 40,000 miles, $15,000. E-mail t7hardcastle@gmail.com.

2005 Ford Mustang V6 coupe premium, silver/gray. Auto, 19,27 mpg, 6-CD changer w/Nach Revo, cloth seats. Mach 1 alloys w/Michelin Pilot Sport A/S, chin spoiler, 113K miles. Clear title w/ all paperwork. V. good cond. Call 678-232-3475 or e-mail david.higford@me.gatech.edu.


Real Estate/Roofopads

For rent: 2BR/1BA renovated duplex in Grant Park. Central heat/air, washer/dryer, dishwasher & microwave, fenced backyard. Less than 4 miles from campus, convenient to MARTA. Pets OK. $975/mo. incl. water, yard maint.. Call 404-806-6096.

For sale: 3BR/1.5BA house, Doraville, off Buford Highway, inside I-285. Hardwoods throughout with tiled kitchen, quick access to 478/285, international Park, library, restaurants and more. Call 404-515-5461.

For rent: 1BR/1BA condo in historic downtown Decatur Building. Convenient to campus, walk to MARTA, court houses, Centennial Park, library, restaurants and more. Call 404-352-0700.

For sale: 1BR/1.5BA condo in historic downtown Healey Building. Convenient to campus, walk to MARTA, court houses, Centennial Park, library, restaurants and more. Call 404-313-5640.

For sale: 3BR/1.5BA house, Doraville, off Buford Highway, inside I-285. Hardwoods throughout with tiled kitchen, quick access to 478/285, international Park, library, restaurants and more. Clear title w/ all paperwork. V. good cond. Call 678-232-3475 or e-mail david.higford@me.gatech.edu.

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For rent: 1BR/1BA, fully furnished garden condo, utilities incl. $825 per month. Spacious w/ abundant closet space and large balcony. Easy access to Midtown from 145 and Clairmont Rd. Call Rick at 404-635-1868.

For sale: 4 or 5BR/3BA home on 1-acre lot in Princeton S. Home w/Martini room, 2 parking spots. HW floors, granite counters, stainless steel appliances, tracked lighting. Pool, fitness center, tennis beds, pool, Picas, info. at http://atlanta.craiglist.org/apa/761867606.html. E-mail Msolomon24@gmail.com.

Sports/fitness/Recreation

For sale: Schwinn Mountain bike, exc. to new condition. Paid $500 for it, asking $350. Pic available. If interested, call Rob at 678-591-6225 or e-mail presiTor_0808@yahoo.com.

Miscellaneous

12 y.o. cat free to good home. Neutered, house-trained, declawed, all vaccinations.

October 23-24
In preparation for Homecoming weekend, several Georgia Tech Affinity Groups will hold events and meet, including the Military Affinity Group and the Georgia Tech Bar Association. For more information on these and other Affinity Groups, visit www.gtalumni.org/pages/affinitygroups.

Ongoing

Techmasters, Georgia Tech’s division of Toastmasters, meets each Tuesday from 7:50 to 9 a.m., in room 102 of the Petit Microelectronics Research Center. For more information, visit www.techmasters.gatech.edu.