Bowman earns U.S. Professor of the Year award

Robert Nesmith
Communications & Marketing

Demonstrating that concentration on research does not impede student instruction, Associate Professor Kirk Bowman has been recognized as an “outstanding undergraduate instructor.” The Carnegie Foundation and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) named Bowman, a faculty member in the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs, as a state winner in its U.S. Professors of the Year Awards Program. Bowman was among 46 other faculty members nationwide representing state-level winners. On the national level, four were chosen. The Office of the President nominated Bowman.

“The line between teaching and research is porous,” he said. “(This award) means that there is recognition for those who combine serious research and scholarship and an enjoyment of teaching. You really can do both. Students can sense when a teacher is not excited to be there.” He credits the encouraging atmosphere at Tech for professors to combine research and teaching, as well as the Institute’s emphasis on studying abroad.

“[Study abroad is] the best way to have a holistic educational experience in the social sciences,” Bowman said. “Understanding a country’s politics, culture and development requires a tremendous amount of empathy—you can’t gain it without being there.”

Instructor of several 1000- to 6000-level courses, Bowman’s research centers on issues of development and politics in Latin American and the Iberian Peninsula. His research focus is on comparative regional politics and the role of state and nonstate actors in policy-making across Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Iberian Peninsula.

Georgia Tech named Tree Campus USA

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Communications & Marketing

Georgia Tech’s commitment to environmental best practices received a boost as the Institute was recognized for its planting and managing of campus trees.

The Arbor Day Foundation designated Tech a Tree Campus USA on Nov. 18. Tech is the 10th institution awarded this distinction for best practices in campus forestry, and is the first in the state of Georgia.

Hyacinth Ide, landscape manager with Facilities, received the award Nov. 18 in Atlanta at the Partners in Community Forestry Conference. Ide’s staff works to not only maintain and Institute community members feted at OOD awards banquet

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On Nov. 19, 200 members of the Tech community—from Housing to the College of Engineering and from the Office of Information Technology to the Georgia Tech Research Institute—received recognition from their peers and appreciation from Institute administration for completing career development courses offered by the Office of Organizational Development (OOD).

Interim President Gary Schuster opened the awards luncheon, thanking recipients, instructors and the community as a whole for fostering an atmosphere receptive to community development. “This is the fifth [awards] banquet since 2002,” he said. “OOD has one of the most robust staff training programs among our peer institutions. We have recognized more than 700 recipients to date, and this year a record 262 recipients will receive awards.”

While Schuster reiterated the challenges Tech, Georgia and the nation are facing in light of recent budgetary and financial concerns, he also said how inspiring it was to see Tech come together as a community of students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents and friends of Georgia Tech.

“We invest in our students, invest in our faculty and invest in our staff. Thank you for not only investing in yourself, but in Georgia Tech,” he said.

Director of Training Services Lanous Wright echoed these sentiments, after which recipients began their “graduation” walk across the stage—to cheering and clapping from members of their respective departments and units. Awards were given in nine different classes: Office Professional, Supervisory Development, Management Development, Departmental Financial Development, Course Leader, Emerging Leaders and Academic Advisors, along with the two newest courses, Defining Customer Service and Emergency Preparedness.

Defining Customer Service, first offered in March 2007, seeks to inform

Contest winner mixes it up

For the last three years, Student Services has held a Fall Break Food Fest Potluck contest. This year’s winner was able to work with Sodexo and Dining Services to serve the winning recipe in the Student Center Food Court. Student Services accountant and contest winner Marcia Stewart—preparing for her big day—served her chocolate cake at the food court on Nov. 20.

WWW.WHISTLE.GATECH.EDU
Launched in February 2008 to create a forum for the multi-disciplinary study and research of large-scale challenges in biology and medicine in the 21st century, the Integrative Biosystems Institute (IBSI) held its International Launch Conference Oct. 18-21. Approximately 160 attended, representing the United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, Portugal, Switzerland, India and Spain in addition to the United States.

Speakers, comprised of both academics and business professionals, gave presentations in the areas of genome, proteome, metabolome and cancer research; modeling and simulation, neuroscience and environmental science; high-performance computing; and synthetic biology.

IBSI’s initial focus will be on developmental processes leading to cancer and on interactions between humans and microbial agents in the environment. Collaborative in nature, the convergence of engineering, the sciences, mathematics and high-powered computing will enable IBSI researchers to approach complex biomedical problems. In four or five years, IBSI staff plan to move into a new facility on the corner of Atlantic Drive and 10th Street, providing space for roughly 85 faculty members and several hundred undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral students.

Institute centers affiliated with IBSI include the Center for the Study of Systems Biology, the Laboratory for Biological Systems Analysis, Center for Bioinformatics and Computational Genomics, High Performance Computing and Environmental Systems Microbiology.

The Whistle spoke with Department of Biomedical Engineering Professor and Director Eberhard Voit about IBSI’s inception and its future.

What is the genesis of the IBSI?

IBSI is entirely new. It was created from scratch, although it obviously draws from existing strengths. These strengths come from a large number of enthusiastic faculty that are distributed throughout numerous schools and departments within Georgia Tech and are eager to work together on some of the biomedical grand challenge problems of our time.

The idea of bringing expertise in integrative systems biology to Tech is several years old, as I came to Tech about four years ago. Shortly after my arrival at Tech, I was asked to be part of a committee evaluating whether computational or systems biology should be pursued at all. This committee was charged by the three deans at the time: Gary Schuster (College of Sciences), Don Giddens (Engineering), and Rich DeNitto (Computing). The committee recommended in favor of pursuing the idea.

In 2005 a small committee consisting of Steve Harvey, Richard Lipton and myself investigated details of the feasibility of some academic entity in the field. We discussed pertinent aspects with numerous potential stakeholders and organized a lot of ideas. In 2006 we presented a 123-page white paper to the three deans, recommending the creation of IBSI. In the summer of 2006, a new small committee—Jeff Skolnick, Richard Fujimoto and I—was charged with developing an implementation plan, which was approved in 2007. In February 2008, we had our launch announcement celebration, with Professor Doug Laubenfels from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as our distinguished speaker. (In October), we had our international launch, which we had planned over the past 18 months.

For whom was the conference intended?

The conference was primarily for academics from around the world interested in integrative systems biology, including genomics, proteomics, metabolomics, nano technology, databases, molecular structures, computational and mathematical modeling and high-performance computing, as well as applications to cancer, the nervous system and the environment. Besides academics, we represented government, industry, and an associate editor from Science participated. Many students and postdocs attended. The total number of attendees was about 160.

Many of the speakers were from outside of Tech. While IBSI is by design interdisciplinary among the Institute’s colleges and schools, there is any collaboration or planned collaboration with other universities? Yes. At this point, we are in the process of getting ourselves organized within Tech, but there have been plans and intentions from the very beginning of our “creation process” to include other academic—and possibly industrial—strategic partners. We already had discussions with institutions in Japan, Germany and Spain.

What does IBSI bring to the table for the biomedical industry and researchers?

Initially the opportunity to do cross-disciplinary research that otherwise would have been difficult. This opportunity is fostered, at least in part, by funds for cross-disciplinary pilot projects for faculty and for students, as well as distinguished seminars by international leaders in the field and informal chalk talks that allow GT researchers to discuss open challenges. Ultimately IBSI will bring results to the table: Insights into cancer, possibly treatment strategies, an understanding of environmental systems and possible means of remediation and sustainability.

For more information...
Bowman, cont'd from page 1

politics, development and inequality in Latin America, and he is the director of the Study Abroad programs in Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba and Spain.

He authored "Militarization, Development and Democracy: The Perils of Pragmatism in Latin America," and is currently finalizing research for his latest book, "Latin American Politics and the Political Economy of Soccer," a work in concert with four other scholars on soccer identity and politics in Uruguay and Paraguay. He also is working with biologists here and in Fiji on sustainable development and drug discovery.

Bowman also is director of the Institute's International House (I-House). An equal number of international and American students share the "living-learning" community, planning their own activities and events. As director, he claims a supportive role. "The House's students are involved in shaping their activities—everything from salsa parties to lectures on development in Africa," he said. "Four years ago, the house has grown from 20 to 48 students."

"I think we hit the jackpot with these living-learning centers," Bowman said. "Don't add to the academic lives of students—they have enough to do. They need more cultural experiences and awareness, and it can help students be more interested in how the world works."

As part of the nomination process, a list of other faculty members and former students was presented to the CASE committee. "The most important thing I have on students is with study abroad. I've taken a group of 20 to 30 students every summer," Bowman said. Until a few years ago, he often led students on two trips a summer—one of which was a trip to Cuba prior to the flush administration's embargo of academic travel.

After working for many years as a marketing manager, Bowman decided at age 32 to finally complete his bachelor's degree. "I was going back to school part time, and I decided I really liked the idea of academia." Bowman received his master's degree from the University of Arizona and his doctorate in political science and comparative politics in Latin America from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

"I really liked the entrepreneurial side of Tech," he said. "I liked that it was easy to combine study abroad and research. There are fewer walls than at Tech! There is traditional academia, and more opportunities to collaborate here. The Institute just has a 'problem-solving' attitude."

"And Georgia Tech's real strength is having students who are bright, gifted and involved enough to participate in research projects," he said.

Begun four years ago, the house has grown from 20 to 48 students.

Members of Tech's Campus Tree Advisory Committee met with Arbor Day Foundation representatives while attending the Partners in Community Forestry Conference from March 13-15 in Denver, Colorado. The Committee, comprised of students, area neighborhood representatives and members across several Institute departments—Facilities, Housing, Capital Planning and Space Management, Parking and Transportation, the Center for Geographical Information Systems and the School of Biology—must replace, but also increase the roughly 6,000 trees across Tech's campus.

The criteria requires five core standards for institutions seeking award consideration: a campus tree advisory committee, a campus tree-care plan, dedicated annual expenditures on the plan, involvement in an Arbor Day observance and institution of a service-learning project to engage students.

To achieve the goals set in the 2006 Campus Landscape Master Plan, Facilities established the Institute’s Campus Tree Care Plan in September. These goals include a 55 percent tree canopy, 22 percent woodlands covering area, managing the impact of development and construction on campus trees, and ensuring proper removal and adequate replacement of trees.

"The reason our (designation) went so fast is that we were already doing most of this," Ide said. "He applied for the designation in October."

The committee membership overseeing this plan is comprised of students, area neighborhood representatives and members across several Institute departments—Facilities, Housing, Capital Planning and Space Management, Parking and Transportation, the Center for Geographical Information Systems and the School of Biology.

Tech must replant yearly to retain the Tree Campus USA designation.
Arts & Culture

December 4–February 13
The Robert C. Williams Paper Museum displays the works of a renowned paper engineer and book artist with “The Paper Engineer: The Art of Carol Barton.” Museum hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. For more information, visit www.ipst.gatech.edu.

December 6
New York City’s Dirty Sock Funtime Band performs its children’s music at 11 a.m. in the Fert Center for the Arts. Tickets range from $12 to $18. For more information, www.fercenter.gatech.edu.

Poetry at Tech presents An Evening of Spoken Word, featuring Roger Ronan-Aigard, Taylor Mali, Marty McConnell, Gypsy Yo, at 7 p.m. in the Clary Theater of the Student Success Center. For more information visit www.poetry.gatech.edu.

Labeled “the Jimi Hendrix of the violin” by The New York Times, Irish violinist Eileen Ivers performs “AnRoll—An Irish Christmas” at 8 p.m. in the Fert Center for the Arts. Tickets range from $20 to $42. For more information, visit www.fercenter.gatech.edu.

Flamenco Vivo/Catalina Santana bring “Navidad Flamenca” to the Fert Center for the Arts, starting at 5 p.m. Tickets range from $20 to $42. For more information, visit www.fercenter.gatech.edu.

December 13
Guillermo Peter White, saxophonist Mindi Abair and trumpet player Rick Braun bring their hits and holiday-themed jazz to the Fert Center for the Arts with a Peter White Christmas, at 8 p.m. Tickets range from $36 to $46 ($28.80 to $36.80, with subscription). For more information, visit www.fercenter.gatech.edu.

Conferences & Lectures

December 22
Johns Hopkins University Professor James E. West presents “Noise in Hospitals: Effects and Cures,” starting at 11 a.m. in the Fert Center for the Arts. The presentation is the annual Harold W. Gegenheimer Lecture Series on Innovation at the Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering. For more information, visit www.me.gatech.edu.

December 4
Scott Schrek, with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory’s National Wind Technology Center, presents “Wind Science and Engineering: Present, Status and Future Prospects,” from 11 a.m. to noon, in the Manufacturing Research Center auditorium. For more information, visit www.me.gatech.edu.

December 5
The Center for Advanced Communications Policy and the Atlanta chapter of the Federal Communications Bar Association present “Telecom in Georgia—Looking Ahead,” part of the Public Policy Luncheon Series, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the GTI dining hall. Cost is $10. For more information, visit www.cacp.gatech.edu.

University of California, Berkeley Postdoctoral Fellow Timothy A. Thornton presents “Statistical Methods for Genetic Association Studies in Structured Populations,” from 11 a.m. to noon, in executive classroom 228 of the Skye main building. For more information, visit www.isye.gatech.edu.

Faculty/Staff Development

December 3
The College of Management, the Alumni Association and the Alumni’s Women’s Network present “Advancing Your Career: The MBA Advantage,” from 6 to 8 p.m. in auditorium 500 of the College of Management. For more information, visit www.gtalumni.org/mbaadvantage.

December 10
The Georgia Tech Faculty Women’s Club will hold its annual holiday party from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Alumni Faculty House, 190 North Avenue. For more information, visit www.gtfwc.gatech.edu.

Ongoing

Georgia Tech Training Services offers a Web-based tutorial on the basics of using a state purchasing card (p-card). For more information, visit www.training.gatech.edu.

Georgia Tech Training Services offers the Emergency Preparedness Certificate, which consists of several smaller courses, including “Fire Safety,” “Facilities Hazard Training” and “Basic First Aid/Adult CPR/AED.” For more information, visit www.training.gatech.edu.

The “Defining Customer Service” certificate program provides campus groups and employees with the foundation for offering exemplary service to those both on and off the campus. Four required courses and two electives are offered. For more information, visit www.training.gatech.edu.

Miscellaneous

December 1–2
GVU and the Digital Media Program present the 4th annual Living Game Worlds symposium, in the Technology Square Research Building. The event brings together academia and industry to discuss design and theory in the production and critique of video games. For information and to register, visit www.gameworlds.gatech.edu.

December 3
The Georgia Tech Women’s Forum holds its Silent Auction from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom. For more information, visit www.gtvf.gatech.edu.

December 4
Contingent on clear weather, the Georgia Tech Observatory will host its next “Public Night” from 7 to 10 p.m. in the observatory atop the Howey Physics building. For more information, visit www.astronomy.gatech.edu.

December 4–7
The Georgia Tech Aquatic Center will play host to the 2008 Short Course National Championships and the Long Course Invitational. Short Course Nationals will be held Dec. 4–6, at 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. The Long Course Invitational will be held Dec. 7 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, visit www.crc.gatech.edu.

Classifieds

Automobiles/Motorcycles

2001 Toyota Camry, 114K miles, good cond. $4,500. Call 770-493-5427 or e-mail sah@gatech.edu.

Real Estate/Rental/Warehouse


2B/2B in Mayfair Tower, steps away from Piedmont Park. Completely renovated 5E corner unit spacious roommate floor plan, hardwoods throughout. Eat-in kitchen, laundry room, custom built-in closets, crown moldings, custom high-end drapery and faux paint; reno-vated bathrooms; 2 parking spots. $1,595 a month. Call 404-513-1668.

3BR neo-Colonial house in Clarkston/Stone Mountain; $1,700/month plus utilities. Ideal for families, faculty members or mature students. Pics avail. Call 678-544-6716 or visit www.dereckpat.wordpress.com.

1BR/1BA furnished, loft condo, across from aquarium. Concierge, inside parking, $1,000/mo, available Dec. or Jan. 1-year lease. Call Rick at 540-327-7679 or e-mail rhb2350@gmail.com.

1BR/1BA on the loose, easy to get to. $1,050/month. All utilities included. Pics available. E-mail crarnan@gatech.edu.

2BR/2BA, unique, free-standing, one-level condo in popular Oak Grove/LaVista area in Decatur. LR w/ gas log, spacious DR, RT w/ large breakfast area, pantry, new gas range. New paint, carpet and flooring throughout. Association takes care of exterior and yard. 9-mile commute to Tech, close to Emory and CDC; walk to restaurants and shops. Ready for move-in. $177,382. Call 636-4543 or e-mail donna.brown@bb@gatech.edu.

2BR/2BA condo from Jan. to Dec. 2009, 1,200 sq. ft. Great location 5 minutes’ walk to Stinger, MARTA Martin Luther King Jr. Station, Piedmont Park, restau-rants, shops, 32” flat screen TV, Park on top, freezer on bottom. Purchased new in 2000, very clean. $200. You haul (Emory area). Email ggimme@comcast.net.

Two solid pine end tables, great cond. $100 for pair. ALSO, oak end table, great cond. $45. Love seat, great cond. $75. Pics available. For sale by owner, e-mail jeniffer@gatech.edu.

Full-time job available. Complete living room set. Includes microfiber sofa/loveseat; mahogany end tables; coffee table w/tan ottomans; brown/tan recliner, $2,000. Pics available. E-mail trichelle1920@yahoo.com.

GE Profile gas dryer with touch panel. Bought 2 years ago, used for a year. Has been covered and in indoor storage since. Great cond. Model cost $550 brand new. $150 OBO. For pick-up only (in Decatur). Email hydra.soelix@gatech.edu.

Miscellaneous

Apollo Model 800 high volume, low pressure, computerized commercial paint sprayer. Still in box. Paid $850, asking $450. Call Fitz at 678-898-1309.

Photo/ Memory quilts for sale. This is a 60” x 65” hand quilted throw with 9 photo blocks. Sell for $125. E-mail Melissa at Emily_first@yahoo.com.

More ads are available at www.warehouse.gatech.edu. Add appear and run for three weeks in the order in which they are received. E-mail submissions to editor@comm.gatech.edu.