Institute joins AAU
Prestigious association extends invitation to Georgia Tech

Last week, the Association of American Universities (AAU) invited Georgia Tech to join the exclusive organization. The AAU membership approved the invitation on April 20 at the association’s annual spring meeting in Washington, D.C. The invitation was extended to President Bud Peterson the same day by AAU President Robert M. Berdahl, and Peterson accepted on behalf of the Institute. Berdahl said that the invitation was extended to Georgia Tech following an in-depth review of the university’s research and academic programs. “Georgia Tech is an outstanding institution that, like other AAU universities, plays a major role in the nation’s research enterprise, as well as in training the next generation of scientists, engineers and scholars,” he said. “Georgia Tech belongs in AAU, and the membership was pleased to issue the invitation.”

Tech is the first new AAU member in nine years. AAU membership includes 35 public universities, 26 private and two Canadian universities, all of which have strong research and academic programs.

“We are proud to be selected to join this prestigious group,” said Peterson. “It is truly a credit to those who have worked so hard to make Georgia Tech the institution it is today. In particular, President Emeritus Wayne Clough and former Provost Jean-Lou Chameau played a vital role in Georgia Tech achieving this wonderful accomplishment.”

Tech’s academic and research credentials made the Institute a strong candidate for the AAU. Since 1999, Tech has ranked among the top 10 public universities and currently ranks seventh. The Institute thrives as an economic engine for Georgia and the Southeast. Through its sponsored research and industry partnerships, Georgia Tech has an annual impact of more than $2 billion, with its research labs producing more than 300 invention disclosures annually.

The state’s long and strong investment in Georgia Tech has placed this outstanding research university among the nation’s top public universities for many years,” said University System of Georgia Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr. “We are delighted that the AAU has recognized Tech’s national and international scope and role in research. This is really a well-deserved recognition of Georgia Tech by its peers.”

The addition of Georgia Tech brings the association’s membership to 63 institutions. An invitation to join AAU requires approval by three-fourths of the current members. The association considers universities for AAU, continued on page 2

**Dependent audit under way**

Board of Regents conducting verification for system benefits

The University System of Georgia (USG) Board of Regents announced a Dependent Eligibility Audit for all faculty and staff who cover dependents on a USG health plan.

The purpose of this process is to ensure the covered dependents are eligible, as defined by the plan. The BOR has retained the services of independent auditor Chapman Kelly to assist in completing this dependent verification.

The BOR states, via its website, that the audit has been initiated to help control costs and maintain a competitive health care plan. “National averages show that each dependent’s health care costs are around $2,500 each year. Covering individuals who are not eligible raises our cost for health coverage, which is reflected in the annual premiums.”

As the first step, Chapman Kelly has mailed letters to the home address of any faculty and staff members who have dependents enrolled in a health plan offered through the USG. The letter will detail the steps and documentation required to complete this verification process. The USG offered employees an “amnesty period” through April 21.

Employees now will receive another letter containing specific information on what documentation is required, which may include copies of marriage certificates, birth certificates and other documents that validate financial interdependence. Confirmation will then be mailed to employees when proof of dependent eligibility is received.

Although second and third attempts at correspondence will be mailed if employees do not respond, employees who fail to respond may be subject to the financial impact of being considered ineligible.

**Recognizing our own**

Faculty, staff honored at luncheon

Members of the Georgia Tech faculty and staff were honored April 15 at the annual Faculty/Staff Honors Luncheon. Professor Greg Nobles, director of the Georgia Tech Honors Program, received the ANAK Award from the ANAK Society. For more awards, see page 3.
Locally grown Forbes lists ATDC among world’s top technology incubators

JOHN TOON
RESEARCH NEWS

Forbes Magazine has named Georgia Tech’s science and technology startup accelerator, the Advanced Technology Development Center (ATDC), to its new list of the “10 technology incubators that are changing the world.”

ATDC is the only incubator in the Southeast to be included on the Forbes list. In its brief description of ATDC, Forbes notes that the program has graduated more than 120 companies since 1980 and that companies associated with ATDC have collectively raised more than $1 billion in outside financing. “The companies are heavy with Georgia Tech alumni,” the magazine notes, “but that’s not a requirement.”

According to Forbes, the United States has more than 300 incubators that host approximately 6,000 companies. Many of them associated with universities, the incubators provide a broad range of support, from shared laboratory equipment to accounting and secretarial support, the magazine said.

Incubators like the ATDC, Forbes added, “are increasingly drawing intellectual capital from around the world.” The magazine said it worked with CB Insights, a New York firm that tracks private-company funding trends—including venture capital, private equity and government-backed deals—to select 10 “especially cracking innovation hubs.”

Forbes is the third leading U.S. business publication to cite ATDC’s record of success in helping Georgia entrepreneurs. Inc. magazine and BusinessWeek had earlier included ATDC on their lists of leading incubators.

“Startups play an essential role in creating new jobs and growing the economy,” noted Stephen Fleming, vice provost and executive director of the Enterprise Innovation Institute.

“As we enjoy this attention, we thank those who have supported ATDC over many years: the Georgia General Assembly, the Georgia Research Alliance, the Georgia Tech administration and all of the volunteers who have shared their time and expertise with companies,” Fleming said. “Becoming one of the top programs in the world required long-term investment by many people and organizations.”

For more information www.atdc.gatech.edu

Celebrating retirement

March 30 marked the end of an era at the Georgia Tech Research Institute when more than 100 people gathered to celebrate the retirement of two long-time employees: Cindy Roberts, left, with 30 years, and Martha Farley, who was GTRI’s longest serving employee with 38 years, were also treated to a ride in the Ramblin’ Wreck.

Solon Couch, who officially retired in January, was honored at a reception in March for his more than 40 years of service at Tech. Couch, a messenger and mail carrier for the Office of Information Technology, is pictured with Associate Vice Provost of Information Technology John Mullin during the reception.

AUDIT, continued from page 1

respond, dependents—eligible or not—will be removed from the health plan if verification is not received in the time period communicated. According to the BOR, Chapman Kelly anticipates the vast majority of the audit will be completed by June 30. An appeal process will extend for one month after the end of the audit. Employees should read all correspondence from Chapman Kelly carefully, and provide requested information by the dates requested. Failure to comply could result in a loss of coverage for any dependents.

Because this is a BOR directive, the Georgia Tech Benefits Team is not permitted to accept any documentation and have been advised to refer all questions to Chapman Kelly.

For more information www.usg.edu/hr/news www.chapmankelly.com

AAU, continued from page 1

membership periodically, using a set of factors to assess the caliber of a university’s faculty, research enterprise and education programs.

AAU, which is based in Washington, D.C., was founded in 1900. The organization develops and promotes national and institutional policies that support research and scholarship, graduate and professional education, undergraduate education and public service in research universities.

For more information www.aau.edu

GTRI anniversary at its annual startup showcase and celebration. That makes the Forbes honor especially timely, Fleming noted. "As we enjoy this attention, we thank those who have supported ATDC over many years: the Georgia General Assembly, the Georgia Research Alliance, the Georgia Tech administration and all of the volunteers who have shared their time and expertise with companies," Fleming said. "Becoming one of the top programs in the world required long-term investment by many people and organizations.”

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During the April 15 Faculty/Staff Honors Luncheon, Georgia Tech community members were recognized for their excellence in research, teaching, mentoring and research. In addition, the Institute hosted 232 colleagues for 10 years of service and celebrated the 25th anniversaries of 79 faculty and staff members. The Whistle extends its congratulations to these honorees.

**Staff Tuition Reimbursement Assistance Program (STraP) graduates**
- Zaneta S. Bakker
- Massie-Hughe
- International Education Center
- Donnie Gayle Burt
- Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
- Timothy P. Carson
- Athletic Association
- Caity C. Cooper
- College of Engineering
- Thomas P. Westbrook
- Aerospace Engineering

**Georgia Tech Chapter Sigma Xi Awards**
- Sustained Research Award
  - Kurt A. Wiesner
- Professorships
  - Faculty Book Paper Awards
    - Jonathan T. Groat
    - Assistant Professor
    - Computer Science
  - Worsell Award
    - Francois M. Tyrant
    - Assistant Professor
    - Chemistry and Biochemistry

**Young Faculty Awards**
- Nicholas G. Faust
- Assistant Professor
- Computer Science

**Faculty Awards for Outreach**
- Michael A. Doty
- Assistant Professor
- Biology

**Academic Advisor Awards**
- Outstanding Academic Advisor: Staff Advisor
  - Stephanie J. Jackson
  - Academic Advisor, International Affairs

**Outstanding Undergraduate Admissions: Faculty Advisor**
- Carrie G. Stover
  - Associate Professor
  - Chemistry and Biochemistry

**Faculty Honors Committee Awards**
- Class of 1940 W. Roane Beard
  - Outstanding Undergraduate Research Mentor (Junior Faculty) Award
  - Joseph C. McDowell
  - Assistant Professor
  - Biomedical Engineering

**Outstanding Service Award**
- Nikkash Jahanian
  - Assistant Professor
  - College of Management

**Outstanding Research Mentor (Senior Faculty) Award**
- Eugene M. Tsiovos
  - Professor
  - Electrical and Computer Engineering

**Outstanding Undergraduate Research Mentor (Junior Faculty) Award**
- Thomas C. Flowers
  - Associate Professor
  - Biomedical Engineering

**Outstanding Activity Award**
- Melissa L. Hoyt
  - Assistant Professor
  - International Affairs

**Outstanding Staff Performance Awards**
- Joel K. Nielson
  - Senior Associate Professor
  - Industrial and Systems Engineering

**ANAK Awards**
- Gregory H. Noble
  - Director, Georgia Tech Honors Program
  - Faculty of History, Technology and Society

**25-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS**
- Montseque Alamed
  - Computer Science
- Mostafa Amin
  - Computer Science
- Mirus Barlow
  - Computer Science
- Kent Bellinger
  - Bioengineering
- Paul Bonkiewicz
  - Biomedical Engineering
- Voss Berleth
  - Mechanical Engineering
- Thomas Burton
  - Economics
- Michael Blackburn
  - Mechanical Engineering
- Richard Brown
  - Materials Science and Engineering
- Jonathan Cahn
  - Mechanical Engineering
- Ruth Carson
  - History, Technology and Society
- Harold Czar
  - Georgia Tech Research Institute
- James Dornberg
  - Georgia Tech Research Institute
- Robert Falley
  - Industrial and Systems Engineering
- John Gaver
  - Georgia Tech Research Institute
- Harry Gerdes
  - Georgia Tech Research Institute
- Michelle Gilbert
  - Chemistry and Biochemistry
- James Green
  - Mechanical Engineering
- Bishri Haddar
  - Computer Science
- Christopher Hectz
  - Psychology
- Philip Allen
  - Mechanical Engineering
- Abdulrahim Zunick
  - Civil and Environmental Engineering

**Faculty for Outreach**
- Meredith A. Dyer
  - Assistant Professor
  - Biology

**Academic Advisor Awards**
- Outstanding Undergraduate Admissions: Faculty Advisor
  - Carrie G. Stover
  - Associate Professor
  - Chemistry and Biochemistry

**Outstanding Undergraduate Admissions: Academic Advisor**
- Celebrating the new doctoral and master’s degrees will begin at 9 a.m. for the Colleges of Architecture, Computing, Management, Sciences and the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts. Commencement for the College of Engineering will begin at 3 p.m. The doors open an hour-and-a-half prior.

**CATEA (Center for Assistive Technology Education Access) seeks full-**
- The Campus Recreation Center offers Sun Tai Chi classes every Tuesday and Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in room 240 of the CRC.

**MISCELLANEOUS**
- The Campus Recreation Center presents “Lunch with the Judges,” from noon to 1:30 p.m., in the Gym Room of the Wardlaw Center.

**Events**
- Management Essentials class.
- The “Emergency Preparedness” certificate program, which consists of several smaller courses, such as “Fire Safety” and “Facilities Hazard Training,” is open to faculty and staff with valuable information in case of a campus emergency.

**FIRE SAFETY**
- 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.

**April 30**
- The Oprah Winfrey Show will conduct satellite filming at Georgia Tech and other college campuses as part of the show’s “No-Phone Zone” campaign. Audience members may be filmed to show on the television show.

**May 7**
- Join the Georgia Tech community in celebrating the new doctoral and master's degree graduates, at 7 p.m. in the Alexander Memorial Coliseum. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
Students organize, head up annual Tech Beautification Day

Students, faculty and staff were invited to Tech Beautification Day to help work on campus clean-up projects, including spreading ground cover and planting trees and perennials.

Moving on

Enrollment Services AVP Deborah Smith set to retire in May

For her first day on the job in January 1981, Associate Vice Provost of Enrollment Services Deborah Smith received an eyeball.

It was the first day of Phase II registration, the former admissions counselor says, and a student from Alabama was sobbing in her office. She took her down and cried,” Smith said. “He was a big student—he was a wrestler—and he had come to campus to appeal the decision not admitting him to Georgia Tech.” She remembers the hallway was filled with students who needed an overload slip or permission to take a certain class.

“There were lines all through the building,” Smith said. “I figured if I could get through that, I could get through anything.” And excepting a year from 1996 to 1997, she accomplished this, even being named to the associate vice provost position in 2003, which oversees the Registrar’s Office, Undergraduate Admissions, Scholarships and Financial Aid, the President’s Scholarship Program and the Bill Moore Success Center.

After 28 years at Tech, Smith will retire at the end of May. With nothing concrete planned for the horizon, Smith says she and her husband will take a safari tour of Africa and will spend some time in Cape Town, South Africa. “I really want to take a balloon ride above the Serengeti,” she said. She says she may return in some capacity in the fall to help with the Tech Promise Program.

In looking back over her time of service, Smith expressed pride in her achievements at Tech, including being a part of the team that developed the G. Wayne Clough Georgia Tech Promise Program. “We’ve got some great programs and people in place,” she said. “We really try to serve students and their families in a meaningful way.” The associate vice provost for Enrollment Services reports to Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Anderson Smith.

On a personal level, Smith said she realized she needed to put her money where her mouth was. A few years ago, she and her husband created a needs-based scholarship for deserving students. “It took a few years to endow it, but it’s nice to be able to help students in some way,” Smith said.

Crediting faculty and staff members for helping her to obtain this——and all the other work environments——to be around young people, who are so optimistic about their future.”