A look ahead
First draft of Institute’s Strategic Plan available for review

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING
President Bud Peterson announced last week that the first public draft of Georgia Tech’s Strategic Plan was available for review and comment on the Georgia Tech Strategic Vision website.

“This draft represents the hard work and insight of thousands of individuals from the Georgia Tech community—students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, advisory groups, and friends—collected over the past nine months,” he said. “We have worked very hard to ensure that the process was both comprehensive and inclusive so that together we could create a shared vision of what Georgia Tech might look like in the future. We appreciate all of you who participated in the town hall meetings, focus groups, ‘Days of Engagement,’ and other opportunities for feedback, either with the subcommittees or via the Strategic Vision website.”

The plan includes a draft vision and a description of five strategic goals with accompanying strategies that academic and administrative units will use for planning and resource allocation. Stressing the word “draft,” Peterson said he hoped the public review period would stimulate additional feedback.

“We have all benefited from working together to develop this initial public draft, and I greatly appreciate all of the valuable input we have received,” he said. “Your effort and continued involvement will help to make a truly great Institute even better.”

For more information
www.gatech.edu/visions

Off to a good start
Campus feedback sought on first two candidates for provost

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Two candidates for Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs have given their public presentations and met with campus audiences. For those unable to attend, video files of their presentations are available online, as are online forms for members of the campus community to present feedback to the Office of the President.

School of Electrical and Computer Engineering Chair Gary S. May conducted a campus visit May 4 and 5, presenting his lecture on May 4. May, who earned his doctorate in electrical engineering and computer science from the University of California at Berkeley in 1991, earned his undergraduate degree from Georgia Tech in 1985. He began as an assistant professor at Tech in July 1991.

Susan Hackwood, executive director of the California Council on Science and Technology, conducted her campus visit May 6 and 7, and gave a public lecture on May 6. Hackwood, also a professor of electrical engineering at the University of California, Riverside, received her doctorate in 1979 from DeMontfort University in the United Kingdom. Additional candidates will be announced at a future date.

For more information
www.provost.gatech.edu/feedback/provost

Hanging it up
‘Oprah’ taping turns Ferst Center into No Phone Zone

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

The Ferst Center for the Arts was transformed into a television studio April 30.

Georgia Tech students joined those from Savannah College of Art & Design, Emory University, Georgia State University and a handful of high schools gathered for the satellite taping of Friday’s “Oprah Winfrey Show.”

The Ferst Center was one of five satellite feeds set up for Winfrey’s Friday show, which was dedicated to her No Phone Zone campaign. Launched in January, the initiative seeks to garner pledges from viewers to refrain from talking on the phone or texting while driving. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, drivers using hand-held devices are four times more likely to get into a serious crash.

“Oprah” show organizers seated roughly 500 people under bright studio lights and handed out signs declaring a “No Phone Zone.” In a first for the top-rated daytime talk show, four other cities—Boston, Detroit, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C.—joined the Ferst Center in a live link to the Chicago studio. In different segments, Winfrey spoke with hosts stationed at each site. Actress Holly Robinson Peete moderated the Georgia Tech crowd.

As the feed cut to the Ferst Center and the stage lights brightened, audience members responded by standing, cheering and clapping. Peete responded by standing, cheering and clapping. Peete continued on page 3

Photographs by Jennifer Tyner
**Research**

**Power to the people**

Connect 2 Congress lets constituents track their senator, vote by vote

David Terrass

**Communications & Marketing**

Most of us know who the president is, but fewer can name their U.S. senators or representatives.

Even fewer can name how their congressional representatives voted on specific bills. And if you ask most people how many bills their members have sponsored or co-sponsored, you’re most likely going to get a blank stare.

So, if it’s our civic duty to be aware of what our government is up to, how exactly do we do that? Peter Kinnaird, master’s student in Georgia Tech’s College of Computing, wondered the same thing and came up with a program that makes keeping up with one’s representatives as easy as clicking a mouse.

The system, Connect 2 Congress, was presented at CHI 2010, the Association for Computing Machinery’s Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta, April 10-15. “In the 110th Congress, which is 2007-08, there were about 14,000 bills and 2,500 votes that took place. How can anyone wrap their head around what all those bills mean?” We created Connect 2 Congress to simplify all that,” said Kinnaird.

The system works by analyzing congressional voting records with a type of mathematical analysis known as a Poole-Rosenthal score. Connect 2 Congress looks at all the votes that take place over that session of Congress and assigns values to it. Each yes vote gets a one and each no gets a zero. Those who don’t vote are given a nine, which excludes them from the count for that issue.

“It doesn’t matter whether the issue is to recognize a community college for its great service or if it’s the health care bill, each roll call vote is counted the same,” said Kinnaird.

Once these numbers are assigned, the system lines up a string of ones and zeros that represent each person’s voting record and create a fingerprint of sorts for each member.

“When we do this, we don’t know who the person casting the vote is, what party they belong to, what race or ethnicity. All we know is that the vote was cast,” said Kinnaird. “We compare them with all of the other votes being cast, and by doing that, we can rank people from liberal to conservative without any of that other knowledge.”

The results are displayed on a graph so that users can get a quick picture of Congress, or examine changes in behavior over time.

“Among a few interesting cases, voters can use the system to see how well the parties’ votes align at different points in the session. They can also see whether their representatives vote with their party or go off on their own.”

Peter Kinnaird

**Earth and Atmospheric Sciences**

Associate Professor Kim Cobb (left) with winning team members of students in the Carbon Reduction Challenge.

A class of 25 students saved the Institute approximately $2,500 in energy costs and prevented more than 60,000 pounds of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere.

They did it as part of the Carbon Reduction Challenge, a competition that Kim Cobb, associate professor in the School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, holds to challenge her students to design and implement a strategy to achieve reductions in the amount of carbon dioxide used on campus.

During the last challenge, in 2008, the competition reduced Tech’s carbon footprint by more than 40,000 pounds of carbon dioxide and saved the Institute approximately $2,000. The winning project for last year, to turn off lighting at Bobby Dodd Stadium during the day and limit the lighting at the night during Earth Week saved about 25,000 pounds of carbon dioxide and $1,500 in one week alone. The exercise resulted in the installation of solar breakers to keep those savings going.

This year’s winners lowered the temperature for the boilers for a group of residence halls, resulting in savings of more than 5,000 pounds of carbon dioxide in just 10 days. The winning team was comprised of students Chelsea Datko, Abby King, Suvinni Vore and Sam Whited.

We asked Cobb the following questions about the Challenge.

What does lowering the boiling point accomplish? The boiler is normally set to warm the water when the temperature drops below $140°F and stop warming when the water gets to $160°F. The students managed to get them to change it to set points of $130°F and $150°F.

What do the students learn from this exercise? They learn things they would typically not get in the classroom, such as effective team-building, interacting with a big bureaucracy, technology and how to design and implement a solution to a big, open-ended problem on a strict timeline with no money. But most of all they learn how relatively small interventions by single individuals can have a drastic impact on the Institute’s carbon footprint.

In addition to showing where each member fits on the political spectrum, Connect 2 Congress also conducts a leadership analysis on each member.

“So, if you sponsor a bill you get a full point, and if you co-sponsor a bill you get anywhere from no points to a full point, depending on when you attached your name to it,” said Kinnaird.

The system updates a few times a day, allowing users to view congressional activity from the present back to the beginning of the 110th Congress. Kinnaird is currently building a new version of Connect 2 Congress that tracks the current 111th Congress. The new version shows how votes are being conducted in the U.S. Senate as early as the next morning and tracks how verbosely the senators are. Kinnaird hopes to release the House version in the next few months.

Connect 2 Congress pulls its data from GovTrack.us (http://govtrack.us), not the Library of Congress, because GovTrack is considered reliable by government watchdog groups and it provides the data in a format that’s easier to use.

For more information

www.connect2congress.com

www.cc.gatech.edu
Mentor Tech begins new cycle

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

With the annual performance review period completed, it is now time to start thinking ahead, making plans and setting goals for the upcoming year.

If career development is on the list, then the Mentor Tech program may be worth a closer look. Sponsored by the Office of Organizational Development, Mentor Tech matches faculty and staff who volunteer to assist junior employees with a desire to learn.

Applications for this year’s program are available online. The deadline to apply is May 14. Applicants will be notified of their status in early June.

Mentoring is not only a viable method for acquiring career skills, but it also widely viewed as an important tool in the process of life-long learning. As informal advisors, mentors also receive support from the Mentor Tech staff in the form of training and reference materials.

“We are recruiting mentors and protégés at all levels of the Institute,” said Deborah Cohn Wilson, director of the Mentor Tech program. “Mentors do not have to be a supervisor, but must have a successful track record, possess several years of experience at Georgia Tech and be willing to commit two hours a month to a protégé. Prospective protégés should be serious about their professional development.”

For more information

www.mentortech.gatech.edu

Ongoing

The Campus Recreation Center offers Sun Tai Chi classes every Tuesday and Thursday from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. www.crc.gatech.edu

OOPRah, continued from page 1

waiving their signs. At Tech, Lawrenceville resident Lisa Duffner recounted to Winfrey and the audience the death of her 2-year-old son, Ryan, in 1999. Duffner, Ryan and her daughter were hit by a teenager talking on a cell phone while driving a van. “All I’m asking is for you to change your habits,” she said. “It’s a small thing to ask. [Talking on a cell phone while driving] has destroyed my family.”

Also in attendance was Donald Peck Leslie, medical director for the Atlanta-based Shepherd Center, which specializes in treatment, research and rehabilitation for people with spinal cord and brain injuries. “[Nearly] 65 percent of our patients are from motor vehicle injuries,” he told the Ferst Center crowd. “More and more of these are occurring because of distracted driving. Please think about what you are doing. [Talking on the phone] while driving is an addiction, but it can be broken.”

Immediately following the taping, Georgia Governor’s Office of Highway Safety Director Spencer Moore informed the crowd that the General Assembly had passed Senate Bill 360, which effectively bans texting while driving. While it has been sent to Governor Sonny Perdue for his signature.

According to statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Commission, nearly 6,000 people died in 2008 due to a distracted driver. Other studies show that the proportion of drivers reportedly distracted increased from 8 percent in 2004 to 11 percent in 2008. Each day, more than 800,000 drivers are using a hand-held mobile phone or device during daylight hours.

For more information

www.oprah.com/nophonezone

www.legis.state.ga.us/legis/2009_10/sum/sb360.htm

For more information

www.orgdev.gatech.edu/training

CLASSIFIEDS

AUTOMOBILES/ MOTORCYCLES

1994 BMW 535I, 5-spd manual, green with gray leather. Meticulously maintained—all records. Original owner. 195K miles. $4,100. E-mail Fred.dolder@facilities.gatech.edu.

1980 Buick LeSabre, one owner, less than 82,000 miles. Auto, A/C, AM/FM, cassette, P/H, PL, cloth interior, new paint, new battery, original mileage, good tires. $2,500 obo. E-mail james.john@gt.edu.

2006 Honda Civic LX. One owner, auto, 100,000 miles, good cond. $7,250. Under KBB value. E-mail joy.lupo@legal.gatech.edu.

2000 Honda Civic EX. One owner, non-smoker, 173K miles, exc. cond., great tires. $4,100. E-mail marline@coa.gatech.edu.

2000 Honda Odyssey EX. 1 owner, non-smoker, 173K miles, exc. cond., all maintenance records available. Call 770-491-9512 for more info. and pics.

REAL ESTATE/ ROOMMATES

Looking for working professional or grad student female roommate to share large, fully furnished Buckhead condo, conveniently close to Tech campus. $650 per month includes utilities and cable/ Internet. For additional information, e-mail Marline at mommar9@gmail.com or call 404-561-5562 or 404-274-9805.

Faculty member seeks mature non-smoker to share newly renovated house in Brookhaven.

Classifieds continue on page 4
In the shadow of greatness
Faculty recognized by students during Dean Griffin Day Luncheon

The likeness of former Dean of Students George C. Griffin keeps a vigil outside the Fertz Center for the Arts.

Wanted: The Original Mr. Georgia Tech
Applicant should be an alumnus who is a friend to every student and excels at coaching freshman football, track and cross-country, and instructs mathematics courses.

Dean of students was exceptionally influential in shaping the Georgia Tech we know today, earning him many superlatives including “The Original Mr. Georgia Tech” and “A Friend to Every Student.” His impact was so widely felt that former Gov. Carl Sanders called the day “Griffin’s preoccupation with helping many students to remain at Tech when their interest waned...”

The 2009-2010 academic year saw the largest ever Earth Day Celebration, held April 24 on Skiles Walkway, marking another year of success for Tech’s efforts. According to Recycling Services, 200 volunteers collected 67 pairs of shoes in Shoot the Shoes, helped recycle 3,783 pounds of e-waste and exchanged more than $14,000 of office supplies. More than 2,000 people attended the celebration, making the 13th annual event the largest ever.