With Wilcox retiring, Student Affairs outlines transition

Michael Hagerty
Institute Communications
and Public Affairs

With two weeks left in his professional career, you would think Lee Wilcox, who has served as Georgia Tech’s vice president of Student Affairs for the past six and one-half years, might be busy. Instead he’s preoccupying himself with projects—space issues, budget constraints, construction timelines—trying to leave a clean slate for his successor.

“I haven’t had time to pack yet,” he joked.

In April, Wilcox announced his planned retirement, which will become effective Dec. 31. Until a successor is named, Dean of Students Gaël Dilabatino will assume his duties on an interim basis.

Wilcox was appointed to his position in June 1997. He played key roles in the development of the new Campus Recreation Center and in the Student Leadership Initiative, highlighting his advocacy for student interests.

“The learning environment of Georgia Tech is everywhere,” Wilcox said. “We contribute to that. What students take from their co-curricular experience is very important to their success in life.”

Other projects his office oversaw include the major grant obtained for Georgia Tech to reduce high-risk Student Affairs continued, page 2

Research at Tech locates source of ‘runner’s high’ experienced by athletes

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A new study conducted at Georgia Tech and the University of California, Irvine suggests that a class of chemicals known as cannabinoids may be the missing piece of the “runner’s high” puzzle long-sought by scientists.

“Exercise is good for the mind. For the millions of people who exercise, this is not a secret,” said Arne Dietrich, the study’s principal investigator and a former visiting professor.

“It helps reduce stress, lowers anxiety, suppresses pain, produces a feeling to the mind, in short, it helps reduce stress, lowers anxiety and produces a feeling of well-being and can even lead to a euphoric state. To scientists, however, the process that leads to this last phenomenon—popularly known as the ‘runner’s high’—remains an elusive mystery.”

A critical clue in the mystery may have been found, however. As published recently in the Journal of Neuroreport, Dietrich’s research team has found high levels of a naturally occurring cannabinoid called anandamide in runners and cyclists who exercised at moderate intensity for an extended period.

Anandamide produces effects similar to those of THC, the psychoactive constituent of marijuana, leading researchers to speculate that ‘runner’s high’ may not be caused by endorphins released by the human body—as previously thought—but by a naturally occurring cannabinoid high.

This study was conducted this past year in Georgia Tech’s Exercise Science and Physical Activity Laboratory.

Exerciser continued, page 2

Prominent Tech alumnus delivers Commencement address

David Terrasso
Institute Communications
and Public Affairs

Astronaut and alumnus John Young delivered the address at Georgia Tech’s 217th commencement ceremony, adding more than 1,090 newly-minted graduates to alumni rolls.

Young received his bachelor’s degree in aeronautics and astronautics in 1959. Since then, he has dedicated his entire professional life to the pursuit of perfecting spaceflight as a tool for the advancement of humankind.

Associate director of NASA’s Johnson Space Center since 1996, Young is responsible for technical, operational and safety oversight of all NASA programs and activities assigned to the center. As an active astronaut, he remains eligible to command future shuttle astronaut crews.

Young’s NASA career began in 1962 when he was selected as an astronaut. His first flight was with Astronaut Gus Grissom aboard Gemini 3 in 1965. He subsequently served as command pilot of Gemini 10 in 1966 and as command module pilot of Apollo 10 in 1969.

In 1972, Young served as space-craft commander for Apollo 16, a lunar exploration mission that places him among the 12 people to walk on the moon. Young made aeronautical history again in 1981 as spacecraft commander of the first flight of the space shuttle, the orbiter Columbia. Columbia was also the first spaced-up reentry vehicle to return from space to a runway landing.

All together, Young has logged more than 14,000 hours—nearly 20 months—of flying time, which includes 835 hours during six space flights.

Young has also received the Georgia Tech Distinguished Young Alumni Award, Distinguished Alumni Service Award and the Exceptional Engineering Achievement Award.

Six years, seven organ transplants

Capt. John Young and Kathryn Smith

Kathryn Smith enrolled at Georgia Tech in the fall of 1997, she knew the road to graduation wouldn’t be easy, but she had no idea what would be involved. After just her first week at Tech, complications from a liver disease forced her to spend two weeks in intensive care. After her first year, she underwent a liver transplant. The next month she had another transplant and lapsed into a coma. Eight months later she endured a rare five-organ transplant involving her small intestine, liver, pancreas, kidney and stomach.

Doctors didn’t expect her to live. On Saturday, she received a bachelor’s degree in psychology with highest honors.

“I didn’t think I would get through it,” said Smith. “You hope you just get out of the hospital first and then you just hope you can walk. It helped me more than anything to come back (to Tech), because it forces you to do things, rather than sitting around.”

Smith is applying to medical school. “I’ve always wanted to be a doctor, but this experience has strengthened my desire,” she said. “I think I can bring something unique because I’ve been on the other side of it.”

In 1996, she was diagnosed with autoimmune hepatitis, a disease that causes the immune system to destroy the liver. With her liver functioning at 30 percent of capacity, she enrolled at Georgia Tech in the fall of 1997. The day after she got her bill from her sorority, she passed out and spent the next two weeks in intensive care at Emory University Hospital, where she was placed on a transplant list. She finished up her first year at Tech with an A average.

Commencement continued, page 2
drinking, the Women’s Resource Center, Ramblin’ Rights, The Whistle Blows ceremony, and a broadened academic integrity initiative.

“With respect to my involvement in educational leadership development,” he said, “Dr. Wilcox has served as an advisor providing insightful counsel, while still allowing students to make their own decisions.”

To commemorate his tenure, the Graduate and Undergraduate Student Government Associations named an award in his honor. Each year, SGA will recognize those who have best demonstrated the principles of servant leadership with the Dr. Lee O. Wilcox Servant Leadership Trophy.

Lee Wilcox, at the newly constructed Campus Recreation Center

Physiology Laboratory — part of the School of Applied Physiology — where she got the call that a liver had become available.

The doctors said there was no other option — to spend either a semester or a year stay at the Institute to help advance science throughout the state.

“The whole idea here is that Georgia Tech has resources available to it that some other institutions in the University System of Georgia do not, and faculty members at those institutions need to stay current in their disciplines but they can’t do it because they have to work full time doing other things. So what we do is make sure that they can do it,” Schuster said. “After all, only people who are active in their disciplines can transmit that excitement and inspiration on to their students.”

The Faculty Development Program provides an opportunity for other University System of Georgia faculty to spend either a semester or a year at Georgia Tech, collaborating on research and teaching students.

Faculty development

Dietrich is an assistant professor of psychology at the Georgia Institute of Technology, and he teaches students at the Atlanta-based college — one of the nation’s top institutions for technology and science.

She not only needed a new liver, but also a small intestine, kidney, pancreas and stomach. In January 1999, she was taken to Miami for the rare operation.

By August the infections were under control, allowing for the five-organ transplant. She spent the next nine months in the hospital. Drugged and exhausted, Smith began to experience hallucinations and depression. “I woke up and had no idea where I was. I couldn’t walk. I couldn’t sit up. You take all that stuff for granted,” she said.

She finally went home in October 2000 and spent a year recuperating. Her parents’ support, Smith said, was critical to her recovery.

Smith took a few classes at Augusta State before returning to Tech in August 2001. Now that she’s graduating, medical school is in her next challenge. Though she still must take medication to suppress her immune system to keep her body from rejecting the organs, she says that’s not going to stop her.

“If I always stopped when people said I couldn’t do it, I wouldn’t be here,” she said.
Campus procedures for hazardous weather in effect

Michael Hagerty
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

I n order to respond to increasing weather situations, the Institute has developed a Hazardous Weather/Emergency Conditions Plan — whose purpose is to set forth policies, procedures, lines of authority, responsibility communicati in order to respond to increasing weather situations, the Institute has developed a Hazardous Weather/Emergency Conditions Plan — whose purpose is to set forth policies, procedures, lines of authority, responsibility and communications necessary to effect a rapid and orderly process for either canceling classes or closing the campus — will incorporate all available technologies to disseminate information about any changes in status.

Weather or other emergency situations may make it necessary for Tech to declare either “classes cancelled” or “campus closed” conditions. Which declaration is made will determine which employees are required to come to work.

When a “classes cancelled” condition is in effect, all classes and instructional faculty are not to report to campus. Administrative and research activities not directly tied to the instructional function will generally continue as normal, unless otherwise instructed by a supervisor. Other support employees may also be instructed not to report to work at the discretion of the administrator responsible for each major division.

When a “campus closed” condition is in effect, no employees are to report to work, except those previously designated as “emergency essential” by their department, or otherwise instructed by a supervisor. When the decision is made by the senior vice president for Administration and Finance to declare either “classes cancelled” or “campus closed,” the executive director of Institute Communications and Public Affairs will immediately notify local radio and television stations (see list, above) and place the campus status decision on the Institute’s main web page. The executive director will also contact the Office of Information Technology (OIT) to place a message on the main campus phone line, 404-894-2000, noting the status of the campus. Employees may call this number to hear a pre-recorded message.

The Georgia Tech Police Department will notify senior administrators. Each administrator will then notify appropriate people in their own division. Every attempt will be made to be made to decision and notifications by 5:30 a.m. on the day the condition is to be in effect.

Tech employees give $292,000 to charities

Michael Hagerty
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

T he annual statewide charitable campaign has drawn to a close, with Georgia Tech faculty and staff raising nearly $300,000 for local and national nonprofit charitable organizations.

This year, a total of 1,970 Tech employees combined to raise $292,000. Though short of the Institute’s goal, the amount represents a substantial contribution on behalf of the Institute, especially in light of current economic circumstances.

In a down economy, said Carolyn Schneider "people’s pockets are being squeezed. I’m grateful for every dollar we raised."

As an administrative manager in Enrollment Services, Schneider works as the campaign facilitator at Tech, coordinating several dozen volunteers and tracking the incoming contributions. She was quick to name those who helped along the way.

"I wanted to thank Lynn Rosenfeld who works in the center for the arts for helping us obtain gifts for the closing luncheon. She volunteered her time and energy and really helped us with thank you gifts for the department coordinators. I would also like to thank the Bursar’s Office for processing all the deposits for the campaign and the Payroll Office for processing all the pledge cards for the campaign.

Campaign committee members:

Pete Dawkins (Chair), College of Engineering
Gary May (Co-chair), President’s Office
Sharon Crabtree (Coordinator), Electrical and Computer Engineering
Jennifer Collins (Co-coordinator), Graduate Studies and Research
Sue Wang, Office of Information Technology
Jeff Kinlow, Printing and Copying Services

Schneider also expressed her deepest thanks to the campaign committee.

"Each one of these committee members played a key role in making this year’s campaign a success. I would like to thank them for their hard work and dedication to making this year easier for me. Each of these individuals and department really helped to make this campaign run smoothly this year, and I wanted to let them know that I do appreciate all their wonderful help," she said.

The Institute’s annual Charitable Campaign is part of the larger State Charitable Contributions Program, created by the Georgia General Assembly in 1982. State employees who participate make either a one-time gift or a pre-tax payroll deduction, choosing from among 900 federal, state and independent charities.

Emergency notification outlets

For more information:
Emergency Resource Center:
www.gatech.edu/emergency

IN BRIEF:

Dean of Students reorganization
The Dean of Students’ Office is reorganizing by establishing the Office of Student Involvement and the Office of Student Integrity. Danielle McDonald was promoted to the new position of assistant dean for and director of student involvement. She will continue her role overseeing student organizations, fundraising affairs and the Office of Community Service to her previ E. The office eliminated the assistant dean for non-academic discipline, assigning many of these duties to Emilia Education Specialist Ericka McGarry. Some of each posi-tion’s duties were redistributed to graduate posi-tion, adding budgetary responsibility. The title of judicial coordinator, McGarry reports to Andrea Goldblum, assistant dean for academic integrity and director of student integrity.

Goldblum will continue to investigate the most serious allegations of student misconduct, while McGarry will investigate lesser offenses. Both new offices will report to Senior Associate Dean for Student Life Karen Boyd.

The reorganization, said Boyd, will allow her office to have a balanced focus on record student involvement and responding to student misconduct.

Top prize for research in Europe goes to Tech professors

Flexible video screens that can be rolled up and carried away like a newspaper? Wallpaper that can be turned on like a television to display images? It sounds like science fiction, but it’s the eventual goal of Professor Jean-Luc Bredas, Georgia Tech research professor in organic light-emitting diodes for displays, or PLEDs.

Last month, the work earned his research team the most prestigious research prize given by the European Union.

Bredas, a professor in the School of Chemistry and Biochemistry, is one of a group of researchers — some based in Europe and others here in Atlanta — who have earned the 2003 Descartes Prize, an award for outstanding scien-tific and technological achievements resulting from collaborative research conducted in Europe.

The award nomination is based upon these various research groups and their investigation of the revolutionary potential of PLEDs for light and image display screens.

Bredas, a native of Belgium, joined Georgia Tech’s faculty this fall.

Students donate textbooks
Just because those used textbooks aren’t worth much to the college bookstore doesn’t mean they’re worthless. From December 8-12, students at Georgia Tech and other Georgia universities sent used textbooks to schools and libraries in Africa as part of a book drive for the nonprofit organization Books for Africa.

Many students who try to sell their textbooks back to the college bookstore at the end of the semester find that the store either won’t buy it back because it’s not being used in class any more, or give a fraction of the cost in resale.

Puting the Books for Africa bins at all campus resale locations gives students a chance to put the books to good use rather than throwing them in the trash, said Jennifer Wu, the student organizer of the book drive at Tech.

During fiscal 2003, Books for Africa sent $17 million worth of books to the continent. Since the organization’s founding in 1988, Books for Africa has distributed more than 9 million books.
**C A M P U S  E V E N T S**

**Arts & Culture**

Jan. 16
The Fendt Center for the Arts welcomes the Aqualia Theatre Company for an 8 p.m. performance of Shakespeare’s “Othello.” Faculty and staff receive a 10 percent discount. For tickets, call 894-9600.

Ongoing
The American Museum of Papermaking will host the opening of “Tapa Cloth/Recent Works,” a new exhibit showcasing this ancient art of the Pacific Islands. A reception featuring artist Jena Sibille will be held from 5-7 p.m. at the museum, located within the Institute of Paper Science and Technology.

**Brown Bags/Conferences/Lectures**

Jan. 22
Faculty and research administrators are invited to meet National Institutes of Health (NIH) officials while participating in a forum on the NIH Commons and other NIH eRA initiatives, from 1-4:30 p.m. in GCATT. Panelists will provide information on the eGrants, GAAP (Grant Application Application Process) and instruction on using NIH’s Commons applications (more information at commons.evr.nih.gov/commons). To reserve a seat, call 804-649-0698 or e-mail nadia.zitman@osp.gatech.edu.

**CLASSIFIEDS**

**APPLIANCES**

White/pool 2-side refrigerator w/ice maker. Excellent condition. $825. OBO. Call 894-2871.

**AUTOMOBILES**

Ford F-250 w/towing package, high mileage, needs some minor repairs, perfect work truck, must go. Will sell to highest bidder. Email joan.gilbert@bhsr.gatech.edu or call 385-2299.


1994 Nissan Altima, 4-door, sunroof, CD/Phone/AM/FM/CD, great car for student, asking $2,200 OBO. Call 770-444-9138 or e-mail ai14@mail.gatech.edu.

1997 Hyundai Accent GT. Very good condition, beige color. $250. OBO. Call 894-6105 or e-mail david.arnold@pc.a.gatech.edu.


**COMPUTERS**

Canon MultiPass C5000 color printer/scanner/copier/fax. Very good condition, user’s manual included. Printer function only compatible with Windows 98 or 95. $85. Email rita.brown@edi.gatech.edu or call 894-5900.

**FURNITURE**

Six-piece solid oak bedroom set. $800. Call Jennifer at 770-835-7209.

Brand new oak dining table w/woodrow iron base. Round, w/leaf to extend to oval, 9175 (retails for $800). Also, 4 dining chairs, w/round iron base w/upholstered seats and oak back. $310. (Both for $300.) Call 770-385-2086.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Ongoing
Technology. Tech’s chapter of Toastmasters International for faculty, staff, alumni and spouses meets every Thursday at 7:30 a.m. in room 102 of the Microelectronics Research Center. For more information, e-mail terry.nolan@business.gatech.edu or refer to www.toastmasters.gatech.edu.

**FACULTY/STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

Jan. 5
The Office of Organizational Development begins an 11-week course in “Workplace Spanish Level I” from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the Savannah Building. A similar course in “Workplace Spanish Level II” begins Jan. 9. To register, visit www.trainwsi.gatech.edu/mastscal.asp.

Jan. 6
The Office of Organizational Development sponsors a course in “Polishing Your Presentation Skills.” from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. in room 308, Savanat Building. To register, visit www.trainwsi.gatech.edu/mastscal.asp.

Jan. 8
The Office of Organizational Development sponsors a course in “Time Mastery,” from 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. in room 308, Savanat Building. To register, visit www.trainwsi.gatech.edu/mastscal.asp.

Jan. 10
Email nadia.zitman@osp.gatech.edu or refer to www.campusrecreation.gatech.edu for more information.

Jan. 12
Campus closed for winter break.

Jan. 14
Spring semester classes begin.

Jan. 16
Campus closed for the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.

Dec. 17
A TIAA-CREF consultant will be on campus to conduct free individual counseling sessions. To schedule an appointment, call 800-842-2003 or visit www.tiaa-cref.org/moc.

Dec. 20
Campus Recreation Center closed. See www.campusrecreation.gatech.edu for more information.

Dec. 22
Campus closed for winter break.

Jan. 1
Campus closed.

Jan. 3
Campus closed.

Jan. 5
Spring semester classes begin.

Jan. 19
Campus closed for the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.

This is the last issue of 2003. The next issue will be published on Jan. 5, 2004. Faculty and staff should send calendar items for spring semester events to editor@ipa.gatech.edu as soon as they become available.