Employees Offer International Community a Taste of Thanksgiving

AMELIA PAVLIK
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

If you are a member of Tech's international community, you may have never celebrated Thanksgiving — but that doesn't mean that you wouldn't love an opportunity to enjoy some mouth-watering pumpkin pie and turkey with all of the trimmings.

Thanks to a group of Tech employees, international faculty, staff and students have an opportunity to experience the American holiday.

For example, if you're at Julie Swann’s house, you'll probably be passing the sweet potatoes to a student or colleague who hails from as far away as Thailand or Turkey.

“We were very happy to have a warm home to go to and friends to meet,” said Olga Shemyakina, assistant professor in the School of Economics, who attended Swann’s 2008 gathering. “It can get very lonely in the United States during Thanksgiving and Christmas if you don’t have family and friends around.”

Each year, the International House faculty director, hall director and residents (both American and international students) come together for a potluck Thanksgiving dinner.

Since 2002 Swann, an associate professor in the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISyE), has hosted students and faculty members from Iceland, China, Kazakhstan and several other countries — including the United States — at her Thanksgiving celebrations.

“My PhD advisor would invite students to his house for Thanksgiving, and I thought this was a great tradition to adopt,” she said. “I usually email invitations to students first and then add a few faculty members if there is space.”

Planning the meal tends to be more of a challenge than trying to squeeze in as many as 16 people around two tables, since some guests are vegetarians or don’t eat particular foods.

“Just try to find a stuffing or dressing that doesn’t have garlic or onions in it,” Swann said.

She usually kicks off each meal with an icebreaker, since not everyone knows one another. For example, she’ll ask people to share their name and the story behind it.

“It was the first Thanksgiving dinner I’ve ever attended,” said Santanu Dey, an assistant professor in ISyE who attended Swann’s 2010 dinner. “I particularly enjoyed the conversations with Julie, her family and the students — oh, and the food too!”

In Memoriam: Skip Beebe, College of Management

BRAD DIXON
COLLEGE OF MANAGEMENT

M.J. “Skip” Beebe, an alumnus of and professor in the College of Management, died unexpectedly on Nov. 7.

Skip Beebe, who joined the college faculty in 2009, served as the Robert H. Ledbetter Sr. Professor of the Practice of Real Estate Development.

“In a fairly short time, he touched the lives of many students who might follow his example as a leader in the real estate field,” said College of Management Dean Steve Salbut.

“He played an invaluable role in helping take the college’s real-estate course offerings to the next level of educational excellence.”

After graduating from Georgia Tech with a degree in industrial management in 1966, Skip worked for a few years in banking before starting his career in real estate.

When Beebe joined the college faculty in 2009, he said he was attracted to the opportunity because of his thirst to give back to Tech and develop leaders focused on building a better future.

Memorial contributions in Beebe’s honor can be made to the Georgia Tech Foundation and the Marist School.
November 16
The College of Architecture hosts an exhibition of artist and Associate Professor Harris DeSmitopoulos’ work at 5 p.m. in the Sudhars Studio Gallery, East Architecture Building. www.coa.gatech.edu
A screening of the Nollywood film “Mammy of the Heart” will be held at 7 p.m. in the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center Ballroom. Confirm your seat at the following locations: http://tinyurl.com/77z5eSu

November 16 to 19
DramaTech Theater presents “A Streetcar Named Desire” at 8 p.m. each night in the DramaTech Theater, Ferst Center. For ticket information, visit the following websites: http://dramatech.org

November 17 to 20
The Ferst Center presents a concert entitled “Theatre of the Imagination” at 3 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta, 1328 North Peachtree Street NE. www.music.gatech.edu

November 20
Three Tech choral ensembles will present a concert entitled “Theatres of the Imagination” at 3 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta, 1328 North Peachtree Street NE. www.music.gatech.edu

November 17
A panel of experts will discuss the role of nuclear power, post-Fukushima, in the Southeast as part of the Green Energy Speaker series at 12:30 p.m. in the Hodges Room, Centergy Building. http://secleanenergy.gatech.edu

The IMPACT Speaker Series will feature Carl Nordgren, founder of creativopolis, at 4:30 p.m. in the LeCraw Auditorium, College of Management. http://ile.gatech.edu/IMPACT

Michael Ru, a partner at Front Inc., will speak as part of the School of Architecture Lecture Series at 6 p.m. in the Reinsch-Pierce Family Auditorium. www.coa.gatech.edu

November 17
The Library will host a panel on the future of nuclear energy use titled “Power Up or Melt Down?” at 2 p.m. on the first floor. www.library.gatech.edu

Robert J. Wood of Harvard University will present a lecture on “Progress on Flapping-wing Robotic Insects” at 3:30 p.m. in room 6442, Montgomery Building. www.vn.gatech.edu

Events continue on page 3

November 14, 2011 • PAGE 2
Tech, IBM Partner for 1 Million Healthy Kids

Communications & Marketing

Georgia Tech and IBM have partnered to shift the focus of pediatric care from disease treatment to long-term wellness and disease prevention.

The project, One Million Healthy Children (1MHC), which includes partnerships with Emory University, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, Georgia Cancer Coalition and the Georgia Department of Community Health, will initially focus on children suffering from diabetes, asthma and autism.

1MHC will adopt techniques from IBM’s services research portfolio to model economic, incentive, treatment, disease and other factors that affect health care decisions, with the goal of improving the state of pediatric care.

Additionally, IBM and Tech’s Institute for People and Technology and Tennenbaum Institute will work together to integrate a variety of data sources to advance model development and analysis of the complex system of children’s health. The goal of this collaboration is to develop solutions for improved pediatric care.

“We are working to transform health care delivery systems by creating proactive and easily accessible health and wellness technologies,” said Executive Vice President for Research Stephen E. Cross. “This project underscores the power partnerships can have in using computing and engineering principles to positively impact children’s health.”

The ability to make sense of mountains of data with IBM’s analytics capabilities is the perfect pairing to Georgia Tech’s modeling expertise, according to Tennenbaum Institute Executive Director William B. Rouse, co-chair of the National Academies Health America Initiative and member of the National Academy of Engineering.

“The goal of 1MHC is to revolutionize the way we treat childhood disease,” said Executive Vice President for Research Stephen E. Cross. “This project underscores the power partnerships can have in using computing and engineering principles to positively impact children’s health.”

Microneedles

Microneedles, continued from page 1

The use of microneedles, which are tiny, needle-like needles, to deliver vaccines has been gaining traction in recent years. Microneedles have the potential to revolutionize the delivery of vaccines, particularly for children who may have difficulty receiving traditional vaccines.

The technology works by using the microneedles to create small punctures in the skin, allowing the vaccine to be absorbed more efficiently. This method can be less invasive and more comfortable for children than traditional intramuscular injections.

In a recent study, researchers found that microneedles could deliver a polio vaccine to the skin, where it could be absorbed and trigger an immune response, similar to what happens with a traditional vaccine. This method could potentially reduce the need for refrigeration and have a lower cost compared to traditional vaccines.

“Microneedles offer a promising alternative to traditional vaccine delivery methods,” said Dr. Prausnitz. “They have the potential to make vaccines more accessible and affordable, particularly in resource-limited settings.”

Prausnitz and his CDC collaborators believe the use of microneedles could eliminate the need for refrigerating vaccines and reduce the per-person cost of the vaccine.

The use of microneedles could also simplify vaccine administration. Instead of requiring trained personnel to administer vaccines, microneedles could be self-administered by individuals. This could increase vaccine accessibility and reduce costs, particularly in areas with limited medical infrastructure.

“Microneedles offer a promising alternative to traditional vaccine delivery methods,” said Dr. Prausnitz. “They have the potential to make vaccines more accessible and affordable, particularly in resource-limited settings.”

The technology is still in the early stages of development, and further research is needed to fully understand its potential.

Support Colleagues at Annual Retirement Dinner

The campus community is invited to support Tech’s 2011 retirees by attending this year’s retirement dinner on Nov. 30 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom.

This year’s 103 retirees will be honored at 6 p.m. in the Wardlaw Center. Tickets are $25, and professional attire is encouraged.

For more information or to register to attend, please contact Laura Pusateri at events@comm.gatech.edu or 404-894-7613.

www.events.gatech.edu

Holiday Traditions?

Send a few sentences about your favorite December tradition, your name and department to editor@comm.gatech.edu. Submissions will be featured in an upcoming issue.

www.chbe.gatech.edu

Events

November 17

The Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning will host a presentation by Jerri Case on applying new insights from learning theory to classroom challenges at 11 a.m. in the Whitley Room, Library. Register at the following website: http://tinyurl.com/bnlzea

The School of Literature, Communication and Culture will host a day-long symposium spotlighting science fiction as a signature intersection of science, technology and imagination studies at Georgia Tech from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. in room 2, Stiles Building.

www.lcc.gatech.edu

November 18

The Honors Program presents “Liam’s Legacy: Food, Sustainability, and Human Rights,” a panel discussion and a keynote address from Georgia Organic Executive Director Alice Rollis at 5:30 p.m. in the Clary Theater, Student Success Center.

www.tnts.gatech.edu

November 21


www.hts.gatech.edu

Miscellaneous

November 22

The Student Center Programs Council is proud to announce the 100th Take-a-Prof to Lunch event at 11 a.m. in the Student Center Ballroom.

http://tinyurl.com/9ydbk9

Every Thursday

Purchase local/organic food from a variety of vendors on Tech Walk from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Thursday through Nov. 17.

http://tinyurl.com/4yds5m

For a more comprehensive listing of events, visit www.gatech.edu/calendar.

Classifieds

Real Estate/Roommates

For rent: lovely home “on golden pond” in beautiful Mountain Park, Roswell community. Excellent Mt. Park elementary school, village green and community pool. Architecturally unique features include three bedrooms, two baths, marble floors, main level office, finished basement and outdoor room for year-round comfort. Lake views throughout. Contact georgiapagacash@gmail.com; 404-275-5640.

Walking distance to campus. Authentic N.Y.-style 1BR/1BA loft from 1910 with 10-ft. ceilings, concrete floors, massive columns and open space. Wicker furniture is included. 1,384 sq. ft. Located on top floor; stunning Lake views throughout. Contact 404-894-7613.

www.gatech.edu/calendar
Dreger Enjoyed Yellow Jackets — and Bees

AMELIA PAVLIK
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

If it hadn’t been for curly cucumbers, Chris Dreger never would have pursued what has become one of her favorite hobbies — beekeeping.

“As about four years ago, the cucumbers in my garden were growing in these curly shapes,” said Chris, a client and support services manager for the Ferst Center for the Arts. “I had read somewhere that this was the result of poor pollination, so with some help from my husband’s aunt, I got into beekeeping.”

By the following summer, Dreger’s cucumbers looked more uniform and the rest of her produce was thriving, all improvements that she attributes to the bees.

“What is the best advice you’ve ever received?”

“My father always used to say, “Life is not a rehearsal.’ I really focus on doing things just right, so he’d say this to remind me to live a little and not sweat the small stuff.”

Dreger is a great example of the way technology and participation in community events can enhance the quality of life. She has become a great advocate for being an active participant in the community.

Dreger was recently interviewed about her beekeeping experience, which has helped her develop a sense of connection to nature and the broader community.

She is a great example of how technology can be used to enhance the quality of life and to bring people together.

Dreger’s beekeeping experience has helped her develop a sense of connection to nature and the broader community.

“Of course, nothing is really private once you have a Christmas card list of 100 people. And you don’t want to snub her by not accepting, but you don’t know if you want this person to know about your job.”

For Chester Warzynski, executive director of the Office of Organizational Development, he’d accept a colleague’s friend request, but with a caveat.

“I would limit what the person could see on my profile.”

Warzynski said that he would be cautious about allowing his colleagues to see his personal information. He would be careful and limit what he shares, especially if it involves personal information.

What She Practices: What She Preaches

Since 1989, Anna Hawkins has not only served as a unit coordinator for the Charitable Campaign — she’s also a donor.

“Practicing what I preach is important,” said the senior administrative professional in Environmental Health and Safety. “I select the charities that I give to based on those that have touched my family and friends.”

At the halfway point, the 2011 Charitable Campaign has raised $184,757 — this year’s campaign goal is $239,900 or $1,350. Visit www.charitable.gatech.edu or call 678-938-0404.

Tillman, who is director of change management at the Ferst Center, decided to take it and has been at Tech for 26 years.

“She is a great example of how technology can be used to enhance the quality of life and to bring people together.”

“What is the best advice you’ve ever received?”

“She is a great example of how technology can be used to enhance the quality of life and to bring people together.”

“Of course, nothing is really private once you have a Christmas card list of 100 people. And you don’t want to snub her by not accepting, but you don’t know if you want this person to know about your job.”

For Chester Warzynski, executive director of the Office of Organizational Development, he’d accept a colleague’s friend request, but with a caveat.

“I would limit what the person could see on my profile.”

Warzynski said that he would be cautious about allowing his colleagues to see his personal information. He would be careful and limit what he shares, especially if it involves personal information.

What She Practices: What She Preaches

Since 1989, Anna Hawkins has not only served as a unit coordinator for the Charitable Campaign — she’s also a donor.

“Practicing what I preach is important,” said the senior administrative professional in Environmental Health and Safety. “I select the charities that I give to based on those that have touched my family and friends.”

At the halfway point, the 2011 Charitable Campaign has raised $184,757 — this year’s campaign goal is $239,900 or $1,350. Visit www.charitable.gatech.edu or call 678-938-0404.

Tillman, who is director of change management at the Ferst Center, decided to take it and has been at Tech for 26 years.

“She is a great example of how technology can be used to enhance the quality of life and to bring people together.”

“What is the best advice you’ve ever received?”

“She is a great example of how technology can be used to enhance the quality of life and to bring people together.”

“Of course, nothing is really private once you have a Christmas card list of 100 people. And you don’t want to snub her by not accepting, but you don’t know if you want this person to know about your job.”

For Chester Warzynski, executive director of the Office of Organizational Development, he’d accept a colleague’s friend request, but with a caveat.

“I would limit what the person could see on my profile.”

Warzynski said that he would be cautious about allowing his colleagues to see his personal information. He would be careful and limit what he shares, especially if it involves personal information.