The Office of the Provost has recently finalized a recalibrated organizational structure, with a streamlined leadership team and refined areas of scope, in support of its core academic responsibilities and the goals outlined in the Institute's 25-year strategic plan.

The changes reflect feedback received through an internal review including interviews with key stakeholders, and in particular the leadership of the colleges. The feedback pointed to the need for a flatter organization focused on the needs of students and faculty, with greater operational coordination and consistency across the units.

In response, the reorganized structure includes eliminating a layer of senior management, reducing the number of vice provosts, creating a new office dedicated to graduate student and faculty affairs and grouping similar functions to create efficiencies. These actions will also result in substantial cost savings within the Office of the Provost.

In a presentation to Provost's Office employees to introduce the preliminary organizational last month, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Rafael L. Brats outlined planning priorities for academic affairs. The new structure builds on these priorities, which include leveraging the Clough Commons, increasing faculty and student interactions, continuing growth and investment in the faculty, and developing clearer pathways in key areas such as educational technology and international activities.

"The strategic plan is clear in its emphasis on students and excellence in our educational programs. Each of our decisions was guided by input received during the review process and by the educational mission and goals articulated in the strategic plan, including the pursuit of institutional effectiveness," said Brats. "Above all, we seek to serve the best interests of students, faculty and the staff who support them."

The Office of the Provost will consist of two primary leadership teams: the deans — those who lead the academic units, develop and deliver education, and grant credit and degrees — and the vice provosts, who provide leadership and services in support of academic programs, students and faculty.

Fundamentally, the organizational structure for the deans does not change, though Brats did announce that the role of vice provost for Distance Learning and Professional Education, held by Poisson Baker, would be retitled as dean of Professional Education. Additionally, the role of the dean of Libraries, held by Catherine Murray-Rust, will be renamed the vice provost for learning excellence and the dean of Libraries, supporting the functions related to educational excellence and assessment.

"Fostering learning excellence and pedagogical support for our students and faculty, as well as providing lifelong learning to students both locally and around the world, is consistent with what we want to achieve as part of our educational mission," Brats said.

The organizational review focused

In Memoriam: Scott Wills, ECE Faculty Member

Scott Wills, 51, professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE), died on Dec. 2 after a long battle with melanoma.

Known for his great enthusiasm and passion for his students and love of learning, Wills joined ECE’s faculty in 1991. Wills’ research interests were in the areas of embedded surveillance systems, portable image processing architectures, and supercomputer interconnection networks.

A passionate advocate for engineering education, Wills was a leader in defining the new computer engineering curriculum within ECE.

He was also a leader in education on the Institute level, serving on the Institute Undergraduate Curriculum Committee from 1999 to 2003 and as its chair from 2003 to 2005. He also served on the Institute Graduate Curriculum Committee from 2003 to 2007.

One of Wills’ students once said of him, “I don’t know of any other person who has better infused in students the passion for the subject that he or she possesses.”

Wills was an inspiration to both students and faculty.

Funeral services were held on Dec. 5 at Duluth First United Methodist Church in Duluth.

5 Must-Read Teaching, Learning Books

Ah, winter break. It’s the perfect time to visit with family, bake cookies — and read up on the latest strategies for teaching and learning.

The Whistle asked Nancy Ruggeri, faculty development fellow in the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning, to share her top five books that focus on teaching and learning. Below, Ruggeri shares her list of must-reads:

• “Teaching to Transgress: Education as the Practice of Freedom,” by bell hooks. In this book, hooks asks educators to rethink teaching practices in an age of multiculturalism. The book is passionate and political but also offers practical knowledge of the classroom. Hooks challenges readers not only to reconsider who they are as teachers, but also who their students could be.

• “Teaching What We Don’t Know,” by Therese Huston. This semester’s choice for the Georgia Tech Grapes of Wrath book group, the book is also relevant to faculty who teach within their expertise. Huston explores common instructional challenges and offers tips on everything from preparing for new courses to addressing questions you may not know the answer to in the classroom. She finds that teaching outside of your area is not often seen as a strength, but can be.

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Have a Tech-related question that you’d like answered? Email it to editor@comm.gatech.edu.

For More Information...

To learn more about the provost’s strategy, priorities and organizational plans, visit the following website:

http://provost.gatech.edu/reorg

For more Whistle-related news, visit www.whistle.gatech.edu

THE Whistle

Georgia Tech’s Faculty/Staff Newspaper • Vol. 36, No. 25 • December 12, 2011

WHISTLE NEWS

Whistle Goes on Publishing Hiatus

Yes, this is the last issue of 2011, but don’t worry — we’ll be back in action with our first issue of spring semester on Jan. 9. If you have any suggestions for next year’s Whistles, email editor@comm.gatech.edu.

ASK AWAY

If there is snow and/or ice this winter, where is the best place to find information about campus closures?

According to the Office of Emergency Preparedness, official campus closures will be posted on the Institute website (www.gatech.edu), the Tech Inclement Weather Hotline (404-894-3500) and local media stations. For up-to-date and ongoing information about approaching severe weather conditions throughout the year, people can follow the office on Facebook (facebook.com/GTEmergency) and Twitter (twitter.com/GTPDAlerts).

Have a Tech-related question that you’d like answered? Email it to editor@comm.gatech.edu.

NEWS BRIEFS

Eco Commons Construction Update

To aid the Eco Commons Infrastructure Project, the northbound side of State Street between Peachtree Place and Ferri Drive will be closed to vehicular traffic until Friday, Jan. 6. For more information, visit www.facilities.gatech.edu

ww w . w h i s t l e . g a t e c h . e d u
Event: The Whistle - Georgia Tech's Faculty/Staff Newspaper

ARTS & CULTURE

December 16
The Farist Center presents David Benoit’s “A Charlie Brown Christmas” at 8 p.m. Call 404-894-2787 for ticket information.

January 28
The Farist Center presents the Librarian Entertainment Awards at 8:30 p.m. Call 404-894-2787 for ticket information.

CONFERENCES AND LECTURES

December 15
The School of Aerospace Engineering Distinguished Lecture Seminar Series presents Alexander Smits of Princeton University, who will present a talk on “Turbulence at Extreme Reynolds Numbers,” at 1:30 p.m. in room G442, Guggenheim Aeronautics Building.

January 26
Kami Ugbiri will present a lecture on “Frontiers in Ultra High Field Magnetic Resonance Imaging” as part of the Bioengineering Seminar Series at 11 a.m. in room 1128, IBB. www.ibb.gatech.edu

The College of Architecture Research Forum will feature faculty member Benjamin Flowers. The College of Architecture Research Forum occurs on the last Thursday of every month during the academic year at 11 a.m. in the Architecture Library, West Architecture Building Atium. www.caa.gatech.edu

MISCELLANEOUS

December 12-16
Bioengineering and Bioscience Unified Graduate Students will be collecting nonperishable foods for the Atlanta Food Bank. Graduates will be collecting food from December 12-16 in the Architecture Building Atrium.

January 26
The Architecture Research Forum occurs on the last Thursday of every month during the academic year at 11 a.m. in the Architecture Library, West Architecture Building Atium. www.caa.gatech.edu

December 14
The campus community is invited to view the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering senior design finalist presentations from 5:45 to 8 p.m. in room 1144, Klaus Advanced Computing Building. www.isye.gatech.edu

December 16
USA Swimming will host a battle between top U.S. swimmers and a team of European All-Stars at the fifth Mutual of Omaha Duel in the Pool at noon in the Campus Recreation Center’s Aquatic Center. For ticket information, visit www.crc.gatech.edu

Events continue on page 3

Faculty Honors Committee Seeks Nominees

Georgia Tech’s Faculty Honors Committee is soliciting the nominations of faculty members for recognition in seven categories. Awards will be presented at the annual Faculty-Staff Honors Luncheon in spring 2012.

Nominations for awards from the following categories are due Jan. 31:

- Class of 1934 Distinguished Professor: Recognizes teaching, research and service. Includes a stipend of $20,000.
- Class of 1940 W. Roone Beard Outstanding Teacher and Class of 1940 W. Howard Ector Outstanding Teacher: Recognizes faculty who have taught at least six semester hours in the previous academic year. Each receives a $10,000 stipend.
- Outstanding Professional Education: Includes a $5,000 award.
- Class of 1934 Outstanding Interdisciplinary Activities: Includes $7,500 stipend.
- Class of 1934 Outstanding Innovative Use of Education Technology: Includes $7,500 stipend.
- Junior Faculty Outstanding Undergraduate Research Mentor: Includes a $4,000 stipend for the senior faculty award and a $2,000 stipend for the other.

Visit the following website to submit nominations:

www.facultyhonors.gatech.edu

Choose to Get W-2s Online to Avoid Identity Theft

Identity theft is a concern for most, which is why Georgia Tech encourages employees to elect to receive their 2011 W-2s online, rather than in the mail.

If you want to make the switch, follow these directions:

- Log on to TechWorks (techworks.gatech.edu).
- Click on “Payroll and Compensation” under Employee Self Service.
- Click on “W-2W-2c Consent” and follow instructions.

If employees do not make this election, their W-2s will be available online and mailed to their home addresses of record. Questions? Email them to askhr@gatech.edu.

Wanted: Year In Review Ideas

We’re gearing up for our year in review issue and want to know what happened in your unit this year. Send your 2011 points of pride to editor@comm.gatech.edu by Dec. 21.
Evers-Williams to Deliver MLK Jr. Lecture

Drawing upon the energy of the campus community, the Office of Institute Diversity, the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts, the Division of Student Affairs and Government and Community Relations are co-sponsoring a series of events in honor of the civil rights movement and Martin Luther King Jr.

The Georgia Tech MLK Celebration begins Wednesday, Jan. 11, with a keynote address from Myrlie Evers-Williams, former chairperson of the NAACP and widow of well-known civil rights activist Medgar Evers.

“Diversity is both one of Georgia Tech’s greatest assets and one of the major priorities identified in our 23-year strategic plan,” said Archie Ervin, vice president for Institute Diversity. “It is our hope that events such as these will spark discussion and renew enthusiasm for building the kind of society Dr. King hoped to see. Through our patience and persistence, we will form a community that exemplifies the best in all of us — our intellectual pursuits, our diversity of thought and our personal integrity.”

This year’s programming is centered on the theme “The Dream and The Journey Continue.” The celebration will include a campus-wide gathering featuring student speeches and a candle-lighting ceremony, and a campus day of service. Other events include a viewing of the PBS documentary “Freedom Riders,” a feature-length film about the 1960s civil rights activists who challenged segregation in the southern United States.

For more information about the individual events, call the Office of Diversity Programs at 404-894-2561 or visit www.diversity.gatech.edu/MLK-celebration.

Communicators Receive 2011 Gold Tower Awards

The annual Gold Tower Awards, recognizing excellence in communications and marketing at Georgia Tech, were presented on Nov. 17.

The following units and people walked away with this year’s awards:

Print Communications
- Invitations and Programs: Campaign Georgia Tech Dinner Invitation, Office of Development
- Advertisements, Flyers, Posters and Postcards: Student Alumni Association Launch Posters, Alumni Association
- Brochures, Handbooks and Guides: Georgia Tech Campaign Case Statements, Office of Development
- Annual Publications: Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) 75th Anniversary Special Edition Annual Report

Quarterly and Monthly Publications: Georgia Tech Alumni Magazine, Alumni Association

Digital Communications
- Websites and Microsites: School of Civil and Environmental Engineering Website.
- Videos: 50th Anniversary of the Matriculation of Black Students at Georgia Tech Commemorative video, Communications and Marketing
- Digital Communications and Social Media: Building a Wikipedia Presence — Delivering Results for GTRI and Georgia Tech, GTRI

Written Communications
- Research News Writing: Attacking Ethical Issues and Scoring Major Media for Robot Deception, Research, Research News and Publications

Marketing Campaigns
- Single-Channel Marketing Campaigns: Password Cracking, Reputation Building and a $10 Million Contract, GTRI
- Internal Integrated Marketing Campaigns: GTRI. There’s a Lab for That, GTRI

Events
- Annual Events: 2010 Burdell-Phoenix Dinner, Alumni Association
- Special Events: Student Alumni Association Launch Day, Alumni Association

Leadership
- Faculty Communicator of the Year: Mark Praunsz, Regents’ Professor, School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
- Staff Communicator of the Year: John Toon, director, Research News and Publications

www.gatech.edu/goldtowerawards

MISCELLANEOUS

December 17
The 2011 Fall Commencement ceremonies will be held at the Georgia Dome. The PhD and master’s ceremony will begin at 9 a.m. and the undergraduate ceremony will begin at 2 p.m.
www.commencement.gatech.edu

December 31
The Georgia Tech football team will play the University of Utah in the Sun Bowl at noon in El Paso, Texas.
www.ramblinwreck.com

January 17
The “Freedom Riders” documentary will be shown at 2 and 6 p.m. in the Piedmont Room, Student Center Commons. Tech Alumna Kynthia Whiteilde, who participated in the 2011 Student Freedom Ride, will facilitate a discussion following the screenings.
http://tinyurl.com/7wy7v2z

January 19
Stanley Nelson, director and producer of the PBS documentary “Freedom Riders,” will share highlights from the film at 7 p.m. at the Academy of Medicine.
http://tinyurl.com/7wy7v2z

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

CLASSIFIEDS

REAL ESTATE/ROOMMATES
For rent: lovely home “on golden pond” in beautiful Mountain Park, Risewell community. Excellent Mt. Park elementary, village green and community pool. Architecturally unique features include three bedrooms, two baths, marble floors, easy maintenance and outdoor and indoor room for year-round comfort. Lake views throughout. Email georgeagarcia46@gmail.com or call 404-275-5460.

For more information about the individual events, call the Office of Diversity Programs at 404-894-2561 or visit www.diversity.gatech.edu/MLK-celebration.

www.gatech.edu/goldtowerawards

For rent: lovely home “on golden pond” in beautiful Mountain Park, Risewell community. Excellent Mt. Park elementary, village green and community pool. Architecturally unique features include three bedrooms, two baths, marble floors, easy maintenance and outdoor and indoor room for year-round comfort. Lake views throughout. Email georgeagarcia46@gmail.com or call 404-275-5460.

For sale, lease or lease-purchase. Warm, inviting 3/11 brick home in Medlock Park near nature preserve. Easy commute. Large FR addition, deck, two bonus rooms. Gudie appal, hardwoods, granite, $289,960 or $1,350. Visit www.medlockparkhomes.com or call 404-376-3865.

www.scm.gatech.edu

www.ctl.gatech.edu

www.whistle.gatech.edu
Jane-Allen Shope Faced Her Fear — and Won

AMELIA PAVLIK COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

For some it’s snakes, and for others it’s spiders. For Jane-Allen Shope, it was the idea of being hooked to a thin wire and zip lining through the treetops of the North Carolina mountains that scared her.

“When I took a zip lining tour to celebrate an upcoming birthday last year, I faced a major fear,” said Shope, the executive assistant to the executive vice president for Administration and Finance. “I was petrified leading up to it. But, once I was through the air — at a height of 200 feet and a distance of 1,100 feet — I made it across screaming ‘wahooooooo!’” The experience left Shope feeling like she could face any fear head on — and wanting to zip line again in the future.

After 30 years of service at Tech, Shope will retire at the end of the month. Here’s what The Whistle learned when we sat down to talk to her about her time at Tech and her plans for the future.

What brought you to Tech? I had a friend who worked here part time, and she suggested that I accept a part-time job that was open. I figured, ‘Why not? I can do anything for a few months.’ Four bosses, and eight presidents (some of whom were around on an interim basis) later, here I am.

What are a few things that you want people to know about your job? During an average day, I do everything from scheduling appointments for Steve Swant to submitting maintenance requests for the Carnegie Building. After so many years, my job has enabled me to become a cornucopia of knowledge about Tech. Also, I’ve really enjoyed working with the student assistants who have come and gone over the years — these kids are just so aware of what they want to do with their lives, they blow me away. We have the best students here.

What is most satisfying for you about your work? It’s been amazing to meet so many different types of people — from Tech, the Atlanta area and beyond. I want to thank everyone who has come through this job for making my time here so enjoyable. Everyone I have met at Georgia Tech has touched my heart, and for that I will always be grateful. I also want to say ‘hats off’ to the folks in Faculties who have always been there to help out. And thank you to Steve for being a great boss.

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment? My one major accomplishment… managing my previous boss of 14 years.

What is your favorite spot on campus? Tech Walk. We tend to pack up the library and look down the stairs and walk to the Student Center, I always feel a nice breeze. It’s like I’m at the beach.

What is the best advice you’ve ever received? Treat others as you would want to be treated.

Where is your favorite place to eat lunch? Every day my “buds” at the Carnegie Building and I eat at what we like to call the “Carnegie Cantina.” It’s actually a small area in the back where we gather and have had many memorable discussions and laughed.

What are your plans once retirement starts? I really enjoy taking exercise classes at my community center, so I would like to become a certified group fitness instructor. Specifically, I’d like to teach fitness classes geared toward nursing home populations. Also, I’m eager to get involved in a few church programs that provide a soup kitchen and support for men who are fighting drug and alcohol addiction. Oh, and it will be nice to not have to get up at the crack of dawn if I don’t want to!

Where is your favorite place to eat lunch? 

What is your favorite spot on campus? 

How would you handle the situation? 

The Response 

As a parent of two children, Kelly Comfort, an assistant professor in the School of Modern Languages, is understanding of this situation.

“I would tell that student that she is welcome to bring her child to class this one time, provided that the child were not a distraction to her or to others,” Comfort said. “But if the child were to fuss, I would expect her to leave the class and return only if the child had calmed down.”

She added that the student would be welcome to return the class to get any missed information. “I would also talk to the student about back-up childcare options and underscore that bringing a child to class cannot be a recurring situation,” Comfort added.

Kelly Weber, codirector of the European Union Center in Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts, would put the student in touch with the Women’s Resource Center to ensure that she is aware of the childcare options that Tech offers.

“I’d also encourage the student to come to my office before class and would offer to assist in finding a babysitter, since there are typically students in our computer lab who would be willing to help out in a pinch,” Weber said.

Joyce Weinsheimer, associate director for faculty development in the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning (CETL), suggested that the faculty member should utilize technology to deal with the situation.

“Whenever we want students in class because of what we will cover, we should consider how technology might help us out,” she said. “For example, there’s a tool called ‘Wimba’ that is integrated with T-square and allows for synchronous instruction at a distance.”

Wimba provides audio, video, content display and application sharing, so even if an instructor and students are not in the same physical location, class can go on.

For more information, please email Aileen Bleach at ailem.bleach@lls.org.