Tech Welcomes New VP of Campus Services

AMELIA FAYLICK
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

As everyone eases into a new semester, Paul Strouts will be easing into his new position as vice president of Campus Services.

"I was at Florida State University (FSU) for nearly 19 years, and I knew it would take a special opportunity for me to consider leaving," said Strouts, who started at Tech in late December. "However, when the Georgia Tech position appeared, I was totally intrigued. My visits here only confirmed that this was that special opportunity."

Most recently, Strouts served as associate vice president for administration at FSU, where he oversaw a staff of more than 400 employees.

During his time at Florida State, Strouts doubled auxiliary revenues over a 12-year period, oversaw the expansion of food services from $8 million to $29 million, developed a partnership between Human Resources and the Dean of Faculties Office and implemented an online e-procurement system, among other things.

"Paul brings extensive experience with auxiliary enterprises, procurement and human resources, as well as a strong commitment to customer service and leadership through collaboration," said Steve Swant, executive vice president for Administration and Finance. "The Campus Services team has a strong history of quality service and continuous improvement. Paul brings the vision and leadership that can help build on that rich legacy and help the Institute move forward in achieving our strategic goals."

Before arriving at FSU, Strouts also held a variety of roles at Indiana University-Purdue University from 1982 to 1993, including director of public safety, purchasing and support services.

Strouts earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration and a master’s degree in public affairs from Indiana University in Fort Wayne, Ind.

In the weeks to come, the new vice president looks forward to meeting the Institute’s staff members and students. "The people I’ve met thus far have been extraordinarily welcoming and seem to share a common appreciation for the campus and its heritage," he added. “I look forward to contributing to this wonderful institution.”

Strouts can be reached at paul.strouts@gatech.edu.

Institute Receives $3.5 Million to Lead Transportation Research

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Georgia Tech has been selected by the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) to receive $3.5 million to lead one of 10 national Tier One University Transportation Centers (UTC).

Known as the National Center for Transportation System Productivity and Management, the Georgia Tech UTC will focus on transportation issues of importance to the nation, state and metropolitan areas.

"Georgia Tech is uniquely qualified to lead the University Transportation Center. It is home to one of the largest and most accomplished transportation and logistics research programs in the United States and is responsible for many of the strategic improvements that have been made to Georgia’s infrastructure," said Gov. Nathan Deal.

"I applaud the efforts of all of those who were involved in this important project."

The purpose of the UTCs is to advance U.S. technology and expertise in the many disciplines comprising transportation through research, education and technology transfer, as well as provide a critical transportation knowledge base outside the U.S. DOT and address vital workforce needs for the next generation of transportation leaders.

Funded by a $3.5 million federal grant and an additional $3.5 million in funds from various state transportation departments, the Georgia Tech UTC will focus on two primary areas.

1. System Productivity and Optimization: Georgia Tech will focus on system productivity, which includes optimizing transit networks, improving safety, reducing congestion and improving mobility.

2. Strategic Workforce Development: Georgia Tech will focus on workforce development, which includes improving the skills and knowledge of transportation professionals and developing the next generation of leaders.

viaCycle Now Widely Available to Tech Community

Kristen Shaw
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

After months of soldering metal, assembling parts and testing technology, a bike share program developed right on Tech’s campus is now open to all students, faculty and staff for use.

viaCycle, a startup created by Tech alumni, began testing its program on campus this summer and officially launched its fleet of 10 bicycles in November. The system is the first of its kind in the Southeast and is designed to make bikes available for communal use. A viaCycle bike can be locked at any bike rack while the user has it checked out, and then can be returned and checked in at a number of specified racks on campus. Since the launch, viaCycle has doubled its fleet to 20 bicycles, garnered more than 200 users and plans to add an additional one to two pick-up and drop-off stations on campus due to demand.
4 Faculty Members Named AAAS Fellows

LIZ KLIPP
GEORGIA TECH RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) has named four Georgia Tech professors as 2011 Fellows. AAAS is the world’s largest general scientific society, and being elected a fellow is an honor bestowed upon AAAS members by their peers.

Three of the new AAAS Fellows at Georgia Tech hail from the College of Engineering, and one is on the faculty in the College of Computing. The fellows will be honored at the Fellows Forum, which will be held Feb. 18 at the AAAS Annual Meeting in Vancouver, Canada.

The new AAAS Fellows at Georgia Tech include the following:

• Ali Adibi, professor of electrical and computer engineering, who was honored for his “distinguished contributions to the fields of integrated nanophotonics, photonic crystals and volume holography.”

• David Bader, professor of computational science and engineering in the College of Computing, who earned the distinction for “distinguished contributions to the field of computational science and engineering.”

• Robert Butera, professor of electrical and computer engineering who also holds a joint appointment in the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering, was named a fellow “for advances in computational neuroscience and neurotechnology; promoting engineering through society, editorial, and university leadership; and contributing to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) policy and educational initiatives.”

• Paul Steffes, professor of electrical and computer engineering, who earned the distinction for “contributions to the understanding of planetary atmospheres through innovative microwave measurements.”

Game Day Recycling Program Surpasses 2010 Numbers

This year, 24.1 tons of recyclable waste were diverted from landfills during each of Georgia Tech’s home football games and tailgates, a 15 percent increase from the 2010 season. Launched in 2008, Game Day Recycling makes it convenient for Georgia Tech fans to recycle, whether they are tailgating, walking through the campus or inside the Stadium watching the game.

Volunteers Wanted for Whistle Article

The Whistle is looking for feature faculty and/or staff members who are using their research or professional skills to work with area nonprofits or groups in an upcoming issue. For example, this could be a faculty member who is using his or her research to help the organization. Or, it could be a staff member who is using his or her professional skills to benefit an organization. If you would like to volunteer or know of someone who might be a good fit, email editor@comm.gatech.edu by Feb. 3.
Campus News

Georgia Tech Is Set for Next Winter Storm

AMELIA PAVLIK
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

It’s difficult to imagine a snow or ice storm hitting campus, given the balmy 60-degree temperatures of the past few months. But rest assured that if one does, the people responsible for keeping Georgia Tech up and running are ready.

“Two years ago, we had some ice issues and realized that we didn’t have the right equipment for dealing with it,” said Andy Altizer, director of Emergency Preparedness. “So, Facilities Management purchased salt spreaders and shovels to remedy future problems.”

During last January’s winter storm, the difficulty with getting campus up and running had more to do with areas off campus than on.

“A few days after the snow storm, Facilities seemed to have the roads on campus clear, but the surrounding streets were not,” Altizer added.

Here are some of the improvements that resulted from last year’s experience:

• The Institute purchased snow removal blades that could be attached to trucks.
• Ice melter was stockpiled.
• The plan for snow/ice removal was prioritized. Campus roads come first, then sidewalks (initially from the residence halls to the dining halls), then parking lots and then the entrances to buildings.

Whenever a storm is forecast, the Institute also takes proactive measures, such as moving buses to flat ground, so that they won’t have to make the trek up Hemphil Avenue in the snow or ice (the buses are housed off of 14th Street).

Also, critical staff, such as facilities, police and dining hall staff, are brought onto campus before the storm and are housed either on campus or nearby.

As for making the call regarding whether to delay opening or to close for the day, the decision is made before 5 a.m. by a team that includes the president, the executive vice presidents for Academic Affairs and Administration and Finance, the chief of police, Altizer and others.

“We consider a list of criteria such as road conditions in the suburbs, weather forecasts including projected temperatures, whether MARTA is running and what the surrounding universities are doing,” Altizer said.

“We all make our recommendations to Dr. Peterson, but ultimately, he makes the call.”

The one thing that Altizer and Steven Swant, executive vice president for Administration and Finance, want everyone to keep in mind if campus does open after a winter storm is their own safety.

Promotions to Academic Affairs and Provost Affairs

OPEN, CLOSED, OR DELAYED?

Check the following resources to determine whether the Institute is open, closed, or delayed due to winter or other inclement weather.

The home page of the Institute website

www.gatech.edu

Twitter

www.twitter.com/GeorgiaTech

www.twitter.com/GTPDalerts

Facebook

www.facebook.com/GeorgiaTech

www.facebook.com/GTEmergency

The inclement weather hotline

404.385.8324

Local media outlets

As soon as a decision is made on whether to alter the regular business hours of the Institute, this information will be posted to the main website, uploaded on social media accounts and published in the local media. You do not need a Twitter or a Facebook account to view the content on social media pages.

Campus may be open, but we recognize that conditions aren’t uniform across the region. Therefore, we are not asking you to risk your safety if driving conditions in your area are treacherous,” Swant said. “If employees are concerned about their safety, we encourage them to contact their supervisors and identify appropriate alternatives.”

For more information, contact Altizer at andy.altizer@police.gatech.edu.

Provost Invites Faculty to Apply for Vice Provost Positions

Following last month’s announcement of a modified organizational structure within the Office of the Provost, Rafael L. Bras, provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs, recently issued an open call for two newly created leadership positions.

In a Jan. 13 message to faculty, Bras said he was accepting applications for the positions of vice provost for Undergraduate Education and vice provost for Graduate Education and Faculty Affairs. Both individuals will serve as members of the president’s cabinet.

The changes reflect feedback received through an internal review including interviews with key stakeholders, and in particular, the leadership of the colleges, which suggested the growing size and differing needs of the undergraduate and graduate student populations merited individual attention.

The revised structure also provides greater support and advocacy for the interests of faculty members and postdoctoral fellows.

While nominations will be received until the roles have been filled, it is requested that interested faculty members identify themselves no later than Wednesday, Feb. 15.

To view the position descriptions and application information, visit the following website:

www.provost.gatech.edu

TRANSPORTATION, continued from page 1

the Woodruff Foundation and others for the first two years, the UTC will bring together a consortium of universities in Georgia, Florida and Alabama. These institutions include the University of Georgia, Georgia State University, Georgia Southern University, Southern Polytechnic State University, Clark Atlanta University, Spelman College, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Florida International University and University of Central Florida.

According to President G. P. “Bud” Peterson, the UTC designation provides national recognition of Georgia Tech’s capabilities and expertise in contributing to transportation solutions.

“We are pleased to take a leading role in working with our industry, government and university partners to devise solutions for our state and regional transportation challenges,” he said. “I want to thank the U.S. Department of Transportation, Gov. Deal, Georgia Department of Transportation, Woodruff Foundation and the Georgia congressional delegation for their support of this important work.”

Funding from the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation supported the initial proposal led by a team from Tech including Michael Meyer, director of the Georgia Transportation Institute and civil engineering professor; Catherine Ross, director of the Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development; and Ken Stewart, senior advisor for industry.

In a related program, Georgia Tech has also been named as a collaborator in the U.S. DOT’s Regional UTC led by the University of Florida. The University of Florida and Georgia Tech will be joined by Auburn University, Florida International University, University of North Carolina, North Carolina State University, University of Alabama at Birmingham and Mississippi State University to form a regional consortium that will focus on transportation issues impacting the Southeast.

Georgia DOT will also provide some matching funds for this effort.

EVENTS

MISCELLANEOUS

February 4

The seventh annual stand-up comedy show sponsored by the MIT alumni club of Atlanta will be held at the Gordon Biersch Brewery Restaurant in Midtown Atlanta. The doors open at 7 p.m., and the show starts at 8 p.m.

This year’s show features the Georgia Tech Finals from the National College Comedy Competition.

www.drptecomedy.com/mit

February 7

The Southeast Regional Group of BCS - The Chartered Institute for IT, in collaboration with the Georgia Tech Center for the Study of Women, Science and Technology, invite you to a discussion on the impact of trends in technology on women’s education and careers in IT and how the face of the IT workplace is changing…or is it? The event begins at 10:30 a.m. in room 301, Georgia Tech Student Center. RSVP to salimah@cacp.gatech.edu.

March 1

Deadline to apply for one of five $1,000 Georgia Tech Faculty Women’s Club scholarships. An applicant must have a GPA of at least 2.75 and a parent or guardian currently employed at Georgia Tech. For more information, visit www.gtfcw.gatech.edu.

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, Roswell community. Excellent Mtn. Park elements and proximity to Village green and community pool. Architecturally unique features include three bedrooms, two baths, marriage stairs, easy maintenance and outdoor room for year-round comfort. Lake views throughout. Email georgiaspace4@gmail.com or call 404-275-5460.

For sale, lease or lease-purchase, Warm, inviting 3/1/1 brick home in Medlock Park near nature preserve. Easy commute to library, college green and community pool. Architecturally unique features include three bedrooms, two baths, beautiful lighting, easy maintenance and outdoor room for year-round comfort. Lake views throughout. Email remaxgt extractor@gmail.com or call 404-327-3655.

3BR/2BA house for sale. Ten minutes from Tech, near Inman Park in Old Fourth Ward with end-dos and off-street parking. WD, quiet street. $359,900. MLS #4243032 or call 404-374-2987.

2BR/2BA loft with garage in historic building with gated entrance at 434 MacPherson Ave. #103. Hall walking distance from Tech. Large kitchen with stainless appliances. Extra large master suite with large walk-in closet, full bath, walk-in shower and walk-in closet. Communal rooftop deck a grill and patio furniture. $339,000. Contact Carolyn Meadows at 404-797-2883.

www.provost.gatech.edu

www.whistle.gatech.edu
Economics, Oyelere has pursued her interest described “journey” into her current field. An investment could yield different returns to the question of why an individual’s education matters. But it wouldn’t be until her parents, an engineer or even an accountant, who might be a good fit, email Ruth Oyelere about being a doctor, an engineer or even an accountant. But it wouldn’t be until her family returned home to a politically unstable Nigeria that she realized that none of these was the right fit.

“In the 1980s, my family moved to the United States while my dad was doing a post doc at the University of Southern California,” Oyelere said.

“We later returned to Nigeria during its military era, and our living standards plummeted. I became fascinated with the question of why an individual’s education investment could yield different returns based on location.”

This was the beginning of her self-described “journey” into her current field. As an assistant professor in the School of Economics, Oyelere has pursued her interest in education, development and labor economics. Here, Oyelere shares more about herself and her time at Tech.

When did you arrive at Tech, and what are a few things people might not know about your job?

I’ve been at the Institute for more than five years. People might not realize that my research doesn’t just focus on the economy and money — I’m examining social issues. For example, I am working with a colleague to investigate whether, over time, increases in immigrants in public schools have any effect on achievement of American-born children. Another unique aspect of what I do is that I work on some research topics with a lot of overlap with other disciplines such as public policy, sociology, political science and demography.

What have you learned from your students?

I realize that even though they want to get good grades, the students still appreciate effective and engaging teaching and faculty who care about them — even when they don’t get the grades they hoped for.

What is your favorite spot on campus?

It would be the Clough Commons rooftop. I love nature, and the green roof concept is really cool.

What piece of technology could you not live without?

The Internet, because I do research online constantly. I’m always communicating with my co-authors, students and friends, and I prefer to do my shopping online.

Which do you prefer and why: Facebook, Twitter or a world without all of this social media stuff?

I prefer Facebook, because it allows me to reconnect with old childhood friends. I also enjoy the option of being able to share photos selectively with family and close friends without having to go to the trouble of emailing them. I don’t use Twitter. My whole problem with it is that the idea of following people or being informed about what they do constantly just doesn’t resonate with me.

Where is your favorite place to grab lunch, and what do you order?

Any Thai restaurant, and I usually order some soup and then jasmine rice with a green or red curry chicken.

If you could have dinner with one person, who would it be?

I’d have to say President Obama. Having dinner with him would give me the opportunity to suggest some of my own ideas on how to deal with some of the labor market issues our country is currently facing.

What is something that we didn’t cover that you’d like people to know about you?

I sing and write songs. I wrote my first song when I was eight. I haven’t had much spare time for songwriting in the last few years, but whenever I get the chance, I sing especially to my kids.

Anyone with a valid BuzzCard can begin using the system by first signing up at vt.viacycle.com, then using a cell phone to unlock any bike not currently in use. Users are not required to have a smartphone, as a text message or phone call unlocks and locks the bicycles.

Jonathan Murphy, a graduate student in aerospace engineering and mechanical chair for Starter Bikes, tested viacycle during its trial period. Murphy used a bike for a trip to Kroeger on Ponce de Leon Avenue, with the whole trip taking him just under an hour.

“I see a lot of people coming to Starter Bikes who could definitely use the system — international students who are only here briefly, or people interested in buying a bike but wanting to try it out first,” Murphy said. “I’m happy to see viacycle here and see the program running.”

viacycle worked with Georgia Tech Parking and Transportation Services and the City of Atlanta’s Office of Sustainability in preparing for its debut; President G. P. “Bud” Peterson and Atlanta City Council members Keisha Bottoms and Aaron Watson spoke at the launch event in November.

viacycle is free to join and, for a limited time, is giving new users $20 in credit when they sign up. The cost of each use is based on the distance traveled, running.”

viaCycle continued from page 1

Nasser Maleki, a medical engineer

Nasser Maleki, an adjunct professor with the School of Mechanical Engineering, passed away on Jan. 6 after a three-plus year battle with glioblastoma.

Born in Tehran, Maleki received his doctorate in physics from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. He completed his post-doctoral fellowship in Medical Physics at the Joint Center for Radiation Therapy at Harvard Medical School in 1984. Since then, Maleki has been involved in research on treatment planning, modification and use of linear accelerators for stereotactic radiosurgery.

Represent Tech in a Worldwide Competition

The American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) is currently accepting applications for scholarships to attend its summer event.

AWEA will host Windpower 2012, a conference and exhibition, in Atlanta from June 3 to 6. It is offering scholarships to those students, faculty or staff who apply and demonstrate the highest level of commitment to furthering their knowledge of the wind industry. Applications are due March 16. Learn more at http://windpowerexpo.org

Well-maintained, charming 2BR/1BA plus bonus room with hardwood floors throughout and large, landscaped, fenced backyard with shed. Off-1-2, six miles to Tech and short walk to East Atlanta Village. Must see! $1,075/month. Call Chris at 770-460-7735.


1BR/1BA condo in Virginia Highlands. Gorgeous hardwoods, large picture windows, 12– ft. ceilings, designer colors and finishes, and three huge closets. Includes W/D, dishwasher, water and trash. Walk to restaurants and shops. Only minutes from Tech. Call 770-601-1091.

A 1,400 SQ FT 3-bedroom, 2-bath home in Alpharetta. $650, fully loaded, 2GB RAM 4 hard drives (70GB) RAID 2 CD/DVD burner, HP 2600 printer. Email alex.vh@bluegates.com.

Apple 1.4GHz G4 and 17-inch Apple monitor. $650, fully loaded, 2GB RAM 4 hard drives (70GB) RAID 2 CD/DVD burner, HP 2600 printer, keyboard/ mouse/ iMac 10.5, original 550 CDs. Too much to list. Call 404-939-1041.

I am looking for a copy of the Georgia Tech Blueprint from 1963 (volume 56). It is intended as a 70th birthday gift to a very distinguished academic who is from the Class of 1963. Please contact buzzcard@gatech.edu.

1997 Cannondale road bike, 54-cm frame, 10-speed Shimano 105 group with seat, bar shifters, 3 x 7 drive train, clamps, pedals, Maxxville seat. Like-new condition. A great value. Call 404-934-1286. Email kevin.maleki@gt.edu for questions or pictures. dnaloukas@icloud.com.

Intova IC12 waterproof camera, 12MP, 720p video, waterproof to 180 feet, used once, asking $105 OBO. Call 404-894-2980 or 404-421-6481.

Canon WP-DC15 waterproof case for Canon WP-DC15 camera, water-proof to 150 feet, used twice, asking $100 OBO. Call 404-894-2980 or 404-421-6481.

White toddler bed set including bed (wood, mattress, comforter set (Terry Story or Pinicello)) and iron frame (garni frame or similar), Lulaby set. Excellent condition.

Additional $15 stand or wall mount. Samsung Blu-ray player included. $450. Call 404-385-0380.

Ads appear and run for three issues in the order in which they are received. Email ads@comm.gatech.edu.

Meet Your Sweetheart at Tech?

We’re looking to feature couples who met at Georgia Tech in the next issue of The Whistle. If you would like to be a part of the article or know of someone who might be a good fit, email editor@comm.gatech.edu by Jan. 27.