ASK AWAY

Is there a place to recycle batteries on campus?

Rechargeable and non-rechargeable batteries, cell phones and cell phone batteries can be recycled at the Student Center Information Desk, Burdell’s Bookstore in the Student Center Commons, the Library’s security desk, the Campus Recreation Center’s Outdoor Recreation at Georgia Tech office, and the book cashier counter at Barnes & Noble @ Tech Square. Find more information at bit.ly/VxznQnc.

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

NEWS BRIEFS

Receive W-2s Electronically

Instead of receiving W-2s through the mail, elect to receive yours electronically. Learn how at bit.ly/X3fctB.

Mobile Browsers Fail GT Security Test

Georgia Tech researchers have found that mobile browsers aren’t as secure as people might think. Read more at bit.ly/X5Mic2.

Nominate Faculty for 2013 Awards

The deadline to submit a nomination for the 2013 Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning Faculty Teaching Awards is Feb. 6. Find out how at bit.ly/UKboSzB.

BIOSYSTEMS FUNDING AMONG TOP TECH LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

As the 2013 legislative session begins this month, Georgia Tech’s Office of Government and Community Relations will be focused on conveying Tech’s legislative priorities to Georgia’s leaders.

“Our number one priority for this year is securing $5 million in bonds to complete and equip the Engineered Biosystems Building (EBB), which will provide 200,000 square feet of multidisciplinary research space,” said Dene Sheheane, executive director of Government and Community Relations.

“It’s a facility that will allow for collaboration across campus and across institutions and will help provide a competitive advantage for the state.”

As a result of the $59 million awarded in fiscal year 2013, the EBB site has been cleared and construction has begun. The Institute has committed $49 million in legislative funding.

PROVOST NAMED TO COURSERA BOARD

Rafael L. Bras, provost and executive vice president of Academic Affairs, has been named to Coursera’s University Advisory Board.

Bras is one of nine senior academic officials named to the panel. Each member represents a university partnered with Coursera to offer free massive open online courses to the world; researchers learned that corals attacked by toxic seaweed use chemical signals to summon fish “bodyguards;” and The Children’s Campus @ Georgia Tech day care opened.

From left to right: McCamish Pavilion opened; the College of Management was renamed the Scheller College of Business in honor of a gift from alumnus Ernest “Ernie” Scheller Jr.; Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta and Georgia Tech announced a $20 million partnership, strengthening their research commitment to improving children’s health; “The Internship” filmed on campus (image courtesy of Rachael Maddux); Tech partnered with Coursera to offer massive open online courses to the world.

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www.whistle.gatech.edu
Tool Creates Schedules for Missed Vaccinations

Many children miss recommended times to receive the vaccinations they need to be protected against diseases.

Once a child falls behind, health care professionals have to construct a unique, personalized catch-up schedule — often while the child waits in the treatment room.

“Since the new tool launched in January 2012, the site has recorded nearly 63,000 visits, 22 percent of them repeat visitors.”

The online scheduling tool is available at www.vaccscheduler.org.

Buzzworthy Achievements

The following Georgia Tech employees and units have been honored in recent months:

- Stamps Health Services received accreditation by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care.
- Lauren McDow, career advisor in the College of Business, received a Chancellor’s Customer Service Excellence Award of the Year – Individual from the University System of Georgia.
- The Center for Education Integrating Science, Mathematics and Computing was honored by the Technology Association of Georgia (TAG) and the TAG Education Collaborative as one of the winners of the first annual S.T.E.M. Education Awards.
- Rebecca E. Burnett, director of the Writing and Communication Program in the School of Literature, Media and Communication, received the Mead Gibbs Outstanding Teacher Award from the Association for Business Communication.
- Marta Garcia, assistant vice president of Development, was presented the insignia of Knight in the National Order of Merit from Francois Delattre, ambassador of France to the United States.
- Ajit Yoganathan, Regents’ Professor and vice chair for research for the Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering, received the Pritek Distinguished Lectureship Award from the Biomedical Engineering Society.
- John Crittenden, professor in the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, has been appointed to serve on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Environment Panel of the Science Advisory Board.
- Zachary Hayes, associate registrar, received the GeorgaBEST MVP award during her “GeorgiaBEST Services: It’s All About YOU!” presentation at the Georgia Summit.
- Andres J. Garcia, a Woodruff Professor in the School of Mechanical Engineering, has been named the 2012 recipient of the Clemson Award for Basic Research from the Society for Biomaterials.

Awards for this feature are accepted on an ongoing basis. Provide name, title, unit and honor (spelling out acronyms) to editor@comm.gatech.edu.

LEGISLATIVE, continued from page 1

institutional and private funds to leverage the total $46 million request for bonds issued by the state.

Sheheane and his colleagues will also advocate for the following initiatives:

- Secure $1.875 million for the rehabilitation of the Lloyd W. Chapin Building. Originally constructed as Tech’s infirmary, the Chapin Building is more than 100 years old. “This renovation will significantly improve academic support facilities for our students,” Sheheane said.

- Secure $98 million in new formula funds to be shared by all University System of Georgia (USG) institutions in support of critical day-to-day operations. “These funds are particularly essential to maintaining Tech’s academic quality and faculty-student ratio in light of steady enrollment growth,” Sheheane said.

- Secure $50 million in major repair and rehabilitation funds to be shared by all USG institutions to repair aging facilities.

- Secure renewal of the provision allowing carry-forward of certain USG funds. “Under this provision, Tech can carry a small amount of funds from one fiscal year to the next,” Sheheane said.

“It’s important to remember that our state has continued to funnel about 10 percent of the state’s overall revenues to the USG; while many states have redirect ed funds to other priorities,” Sheheane added. During the legislative session, the Office of Government and Community Relations also engages external partners in sharing Tech’s story. Members of the Capitol Jackets group, which includes alumni and partners on campus, receive a biweekly newsletter with updates. To join, visit www.gov.gatech.edu

THE WHISTLE

Georgia Tech’s Faculty/Staff Newspaper

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Archived issues of The Whistle can be accessed at www.whistle.gatech.edu.

Georgia Tech Institute Communications
Wardlaw Center
177 North Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0181

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Institute Achievements

Last year marked the 100th anniversary of the founding of Tech’s Co-op Program, the largest totally optional program of its kind in the nation.

The Office of the Arts and a faculty-led Council of the Arts were created.

A new online library featuring a one-stop-shop for all Tech policies was made available at www.policylibrary.gatech.edu.

Campus Community Notes

Tech Dentistry opened, offering on-campus care.

The High-intensity Activated crossWalk beacon was activated, enabling safer travel across North Avenue.

Tech began offering free training through lynda.com.

Tech was named a Bicycle Friendly University by the League of American Bicyclists.

Changing Faces

Paul Strouts became vice president of Campus Services.

Colin Potts became vice provost for Undergraduate Education.

Susan Cozzens became vice provost for Graduate and Faculty Affairs.

Research Realizations

By analyzing tweets, a study showed that opinion leaders and celebrities played key roles in Twitter breaking the news of Osama bin Laden’s death.

An iPhone attachment was created for at-home diagnoses of ear infections.

Automobiles

1995 Volvo 960. 181,500 miles, black with tan leather interior, clean interior, good condition, reliable. Maintenance records available for review. $1,695. Contact Dinesh Atencio at anel.atencio@hotmail.com.

2005 Honda Civic Hybrid, one owner, clean car, five-speed manual, 59 to 46 MPG, 108,000 miles, $6,000. Email rclark@gatech.edu.

Silver 2007 Toyota Prius. 78,900 miles. Excellent condition, smoke- and pet-free. Clean title (with maintenance records available), backup camera, Bluetooth connection and CD/Aux music. Gets excellent mileage. $14,000. Email gblootby@gmail.com.

2012 Paralympic Games.

Engineering competed in the 2012 Paralympic Games.

CLASSIFIEDS

REAL ESTATE/ROOMMATES


Room for rent in Kennesaw area. Private bathroom, washer and dryer, kitchen privileges, free Wi-Fi and DIRECTV/HO, and utilities paid. $450/mo; no deposit. Available Nov. 1. Call 678-667-7844.

For complete stories regarding these milestones, visit the Georgia Tech News Room at www.gatech.edu/newsroom.
Hammer Enjoys Engaging Students in Research

AMELIA PAVLIK
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

When you walk into Brian Hammer’s classroom, you might be greeted by the sounds of hip-hop artist Nicki Minaj or the Godfather of Soul James Brown. It all depends on the day’s lecture.

“Before class, I play a song that is related to what I’ll be discussing,” said Hammer, an assistant professor in the School of Biology. “For example, I might play ‘Sex Machine’ by James Brown.”

Music is one of the ways that Hammer, who arrived at Georgia Tech in 2008, tries to make often-complicated material understandable to students.

“My research focuses on concepts like quorum sensing, a term that is often used in my classes,” he said. “I might play a song that is related to this, like ‘We Are Family’ by Sister Sledge.”

Tell us about your research.

I study how bacteria use chemicals to communicate with their environments. For example, Vibrio cholerae, which causes the fatal disease cholera, lives in the ocean. When it comes into contact with chitin from crab shells, the chitin acts as a signal that flips an ‘on’ switch in the bacteria. The cholera bacteria then start to bring in DNA from their environment that can provide the microbes with new genetic material, allowing them to, for example, make new toxins or other disease-causing factors.

What is an average day like for you?

I teach three days a week and then spend my remaining time doing office work, meeting with students and trying to inspire them, and presenting at meetings.

Name a misconception that people have about your profession.

A seventh grade teacher who I collaborate with each summer told me that he thought all microbiologists use microscopes — but we don’t. Actually, most of our days are spent using pipettes to dispense fluid containing DNA into tiny tubes.

What is the one piece of technology you couldn’t live without?

My iPhone.

What is the greatest challenge you’ve faced while teaching?

I’ve been teaching for 14 years and I’m still learning what works and what doesn’t. I always try to teach in a way that is different from my successes, and to make sure that the way I learn things is different from the way I teach them.

What do you think about the increasing popularity of massive open online courses?

I think of the two types of courses I prefer. I think that people can get a lot out of these courses because they are coming whether we like it or not. Personal interaction is important to me in my classes, and I think some of that will be lost in these courses. But I would be open to teaching one.

What is your favorite spot on campus?

I like the botchick quad. The grassy area is a quiet place, and I love the fact that I’m also surrounded by science.

Where is your favorite place to have lunch?

It would have to be Taqueria del Sol, and I’d order enchiladas or fish tacos.

Tell us something unique about yourself.

I was a chemical engineering major at Georgia Tech, and I sang in the university chorale and had the opportunity to sing for Pope John Paul II in St. Peter’s Basilica.

What was the greatest risk you ever took — and did it pay off?

While I was completing my master’s in ecology, it was difficult to admit that I didn’t know what I wanted to do with my life. It was a huge relief when I was able to admit this. I was finally able to figure out that microbiology was what I was interested in.

How did you get to Tech?

While doing my post-doctoral work at Princeton University, I realized that I wanted to work at an institution that was supportive of an interdisciplinary approach to research. At Georgia Tech, biologists are integrated with engineers and that appealed to me.

In December, approximately 2,000 undergraduate and graduate students participated in fall commencement ceremonies — the first to be held in the new McCamish Pavilion. The 2013 spring ceremonies will be held at McCamish on May 3 and 4.

www.gatech.edu/commencement

CLASSIFIEDS

Looking for handicap-accessible apartment or small house in Atlanta to rent. Cousin was in diving accident and in wheelchair but doesn’t want to move back home. Email krchekal@gatech.edu.

3BR/2BA newly renovated home in Marietta. 15 to 20 minutes to Tech. Easy access to I-75 and I-285. New kitchen appliances with granite countertops, plus alarm system. $1,325/mo. Available now. Call 678-377-9177.

Large, furnished house in Chastain Park area, near park and campus. Available for 2013-2014 academic year, starting July 2013. Minimum of nine-month lease. Below-market rent for university-affiliated person. Email kevinaptor@mg.talatech.edu or call 404-769-4368.

3BR/2BA, 1,309 sq. ft. house for rent. Smyrna/Marietta area. Large, fully fenced backyard. Pets welcome. Available Jan. 20. $925. Email rebecca.bacon@gatech.edu.

THOMASVILLE BOXSTEEPS, twin bed and full size storage drawers for sale. Great condition. Bed measures 42.5 in. wide by 79 in. long. BOXSTEER is 12 in. high. Large storage drawers underneath measure 24 in. wide by 12 in. long by 20 in. deep. $275. Email msbsteeple44@gmail.com.

Queen-size, pillow-top Stearns and Foster mattress and box spring for sale; both are approximately 2.5 years old. Delivery is possible for an additional fee if buyer is outside the perimeter. Make an offer at sfryer@gmail.com.

Beautiful sofa, loveseat and double ottoman for sale. One owner, great condition. Neutral fabric with no stains and no snags. Email fujila@biology.gatech.edu for photographs.

Dark green leather couch and love seat for sale. One owner, great condition. $600 for both OBO. Email angalaya@yahoo.com for more info and photos.

Z zone Perfect Bars. 100 pieces in each unopened case. $35 per case. Seven cases available. Double dark chocolate. Snack size only. Expiration date is May 2013. Email thehombre@yahoo.com.

Jung 4/4 cello, student instrument strong with Thomastik Dominants, 4/4 bow and soft case. $80. Email gnmay@wolfspace.gatech.edu.

Electric guitar bought in 2004 for $50. Has been played no more than 20 times. Comes with a small amp. Asking $50 cash. Original box and nearly original condition. Email shikanoya@gmail.com with “guitar” in subject line.

Roland FP-5 digital piano. Almost new with frame and original packaging and documents. Asking $700 OBO. Email jshepherd@yahoocom.

GE Profile 3.5-cubic-ft. digital washer and matching digital dryer. Washer is in perfect working condition. Dryer makes a slight clicking sound when drying. $300 (set) OBO. Email jason@gtalatech.edu or call 678-236-3265.

Lifetime TR1000-DF Treadmill Desk for sale. $1199. Bought new at $1999. Only used a few times. Must be sold due to limited space. Email ty1972004@yahoo.com.

For sale: white, wooden dining room table and four chairs. $100 OBO. 36-in. tube-size TV and large TV stand. Both in great condition. $125 OBO for the pair. Email atlanta.ga.sellert@gmail.com.

Add run for all three issues in the order in which they are received. Submit your 35-word or less ad to classifieds-dm@whistle.gatech.edu.

Graduation Ceremonies Return to Campus

Tech Overwhelms USC in Sun Bowl Victory

GT ATHLETICS

Georgia Tech needed a waiver from the NCAA to play in the postseason.

Last Monday, Georgia Tech made the most of its second consecutive trip to the Hyundai Sun Bowl, beating the University of Southern California 21-7.

“I’m really proud of our football team,” said Coach Paul Johnson. “I thought that they showed up and played with a lot of heart and a lot of determination, and I know Southern California has some really good football players. It was a hard-fought game.”

The Yellow Jackets rushed for 294 yards on 63 carries, stopping a seven-bowl losing streak. They also erased some of the sting from last season’s Sun Bowl, when they squandered a 24-10 fourth-quarter lead in an overtime loss to Utah.

To read this article in its entirety, visit bit.ly/ZZQG7