From MOOCs to Movies: 2013 Revisited

AMELIA PAVLIK
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

From celebrating historic Grant Field’s 100th anniversary to recognizing a civil rights legend for his social courage, the Georgia Tech community experienced another year full of milestones and memory-making events in 2013.

But before you leave the year that was behind and move full steam ahead into 2014, take a moment to look back at some of the year’s buzzworthy moments at Tech. We’ve reviewed the 2013 issues of The Whistle to pull together a photo gallery featuring some of the highlights from the year and some of the colleagues we lost along the way. It’s impossible to capture every notable thing that was featured in The Whistle on one page, but we’ve tried our best to touch on as many as possible.

Enjoy the trip down memory lane!

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Library Among Top 2014 Legislative Priorities

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

As the 2014 legislative session begins this month, the Office of Government and Community Relations will be advocating for several Georgia Tech initiatives.

“A top priority for this year is securing $1.7 million in bonds for planning and design of the Price Gilbert Library/Crosland Tower renewal project,” said Dene Sheheane, executive director of Government and Community Relations. “It’s a three-year endeavor that could double utilization of this core campus space, and Tech has committed $3.6 million in institutional funds toward that first phase.”

Another significant priority is to strengthen support for the Enterprise Innovation Institute and Georgia Tech Research Institute.

“These units leverage state funds in attracting significant external investment in Georgia. This led to support for the creation of nearly 100 new businesses last year,” Sheheane said. “Our ability to bring economic

OHR Sees Record Participation in Open Enrollment

OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES

In 2012, almost 70 percent of faculty and staff members participated in benefits open enrollment (OE). But in 2013, that number jumped significantly.

“In 2013, we had nearly 95 percent of our benefits-eligible population participate by visiting TechWorks to change or confirm their elections,” said Brandon Conkle, director of Total Rewards in the Office of Human Resources. “To have that many people take an active role in participating in the enrollment process is incredible, and it sets the stage for everyone to have a better experience in 2014 because they took the time to look at the offerings and make the choices that best fit them.”

Here are a few other facts about this year’s OE:

• 1,011 calls were received by the helpline during the OE period.

BenEFITS, continued on page 2

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Nerem Gift to Fund IBB Faculty Position

By T. Boone Smith II

Robert M. Nerem has spent much of his long career exploring critical health-related topics such as blood flow in large arteries, the role of hemodynamics in the onset of atherosclerosis, and more recently, tissue engineering and regenerative medicine.

Nerem’s work has helped to significantly advance medical science and improve quality of life. To many on North Avenue, he has been one of the pioneers in the field, instrumental in leading the effort in the areas of bioengineering and bioscience on the campus and beyond.

After 26 years on the Tech faculty — and nearly 50 years in academia — Nerem is looking to ensure the Institute’s continued preeminence in the field of bioengineering.

“Marilyn and I want to make sure that Tech continues its leadership role in this work far into the future, and that’s why we wanted to create this faculty position.”

To that end, he and his wife, Marilyn, have made an estate commitment that will one day establish the Marilyn R. and Robert M. Nerem faculty chair or professorship in the Parker H. Petit Institute for Bioengineering and Bioscience (IBB).

The Nerem faculty position will operate as a Petit Institute faculty appointment with no restriction to a specific academic field of endeavor, thus including both bioengineering and the life sciences.

The goal is to enhance the Petit Institute’s ability to attract and retain eminent teacher-scholars to this position of academic leadership.

“Georgia Tech has been a leader in pioneering biomedical technologies and devices that make a tremendous difference in people’s lives,” Nerem said. “Marilyn and I want to make sure that Tech continues its leadership role in this work far into the future, and that’s why we wanted to create this faculty position.”

Nerem is the founding director of IBB, an interdisciplinary collaboration of Tech that encompasses biochemistry, bioengineering, and biology. Nerem was also director of the Tech/Emory Center for Regenerative Medicine from 1995 to 2009. His primary research interests today are tissue engineering and regenerative medicine, including stem cell technology and cellular engineering.

“Bob Nerem’s contributions to Georgia Tech and to the bioengineering field are profound,” said Robert E. Goldberg, executive director of IBB. “He established an interdisciplinary culture that sets Georgia Tech apart in how we approach grand challenges in life sciences and human health. Bob has received numerous awards and much recognition for his work, but it is his impact on people of development to the state is an ongoing priority, so we will continue to highlight their great work and need for continued support.”

The Office of Government and Community Relations will also advocate for the following initiatives:

• Secure $4.5 million for the relocation of Environmental Health and Safety operations. “This project will remove hazardous material storage away from main pedestrian corridors while providing an appropriately equipped space for critical safety operations,” Sheheane said. “Georgia Tech has committed $500,000 in institutional funds to complement state bond funding.”
• Secure $45.6 million in new Formula Funds among all USG institutions to repair aging facilities.

“Its critical to maintain safe and operable facilities.” Sheheane said. “Georgia Tech has committed $500,000 in institutional funds to complement state bond funding.”

For more information about the medical plans, visit health.gov.gatech.edu.

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Published biweekly throughout the academic year and the summer by the Georgia Tech Institute Communications.

Editor: Amelia Pavlik
Photos: Amelia Pavlik, Rob Pels, or Ellys Black unless otherwise noted

Calendar submissions emailed to editor@incomm.gatech.edu or faxed to 404-894-7214, will be reviewed at least 10 days prior to desired publication date. Classified submissions are on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, call 404-385-4142.

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

Georgia Tech is a unit of the University System of Georgia

www.gov.gatech.edu

www.oehr.gatech.edu/openenrollment
2013’s Buzzworthy Moments

1) Tech’s homepage, www.gatech.edu, completed a redesign. 2) Al Trujillo was named president and chief operating officer (COO) of the Georgia Tech Foundation. 3) The College of Computing announced its massive online Master of Science in Computer Science program. 4) Researchers from the Information Security Center discovered Apple iOS security weaknesses. 5) Tech created a Veterans Resource Center for the campus community. 6) Paul Goldbart was named dean of the College of Sciences. 7) Steven French was named dean of the College of Architecture. 8) Mike Bobinski was named athletic director. 9) Warren Page retired from his role as director of Facilities Operations and Maintenance. 10) Tech researchers began developing a device that could provide wounded soldiers with artificial platelets to help control bleeding. 11-20) Tech celebrated the lives of the following employees who died in 2013: Elizabeth Campbell, Institute Communications; Lydia Buckner, Graduate Studies; Chris Ruffin, Interdisciplinary Bioengineering Graduate Program; and Mary Jean Harrold, College of Computing. 21) The Office of the Vice President for Institute Diversity shared the results of the Institute’s Diversity Climate Assessment. 22) The Institute hosted the two-day TechArts Festival in 2013. 23) The Office of Emergency Preparedness launched a new preparedness app.


2011 Chrysler 200 Convertible (metallic blue/black top and black interior). 56,000 miles. Excellent condition. $20,000. Call Sheila at 404-610-9649 or email swillis@gatech.edu.

2008 ACURA RDX AWD with Tech Pkg. 73,000 miles, bronze pearl, navigation, sunroof, back-up camera, satellite radio, leather, dealer maintained, power seats/ windows, roof rack, and more. Excellent condition $17,800. Email ad31@facilities.gatech.edu.

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

January 7
A course on defensive driving will be offered from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Crescent Room, Student Center Commons. Register at trains.gatech.edu

January 14
A course on defensive driving will be offered from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Piedmont Room, Student Center Commons. Register at trains.gatech.edu

January 16
A CPR/AED/first aid course will be offered from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Piedmont Room, Student Center Commons. Register at trains.gatech.edu

January 20
Join Tech’s annual MLK Day of Service from 8 a.m to 2 p.m. For details, contact Sarah Perkins at sarah.perkins@vpss.gatech.edu. http://c.gatech.edu/1iA8k5i

January 31
This is the deadline to apply for one of five $1,500 scholarships offered by the Georgia Tech Faculty Women’s Club. Undergraduates who have a parent or guardian employed at Tech and have a GPA of 2.75 or above may apply at www.gtfwc.gatech.edu.

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www.whistle.gatech.edu
Act of Friendliness Led to Career as Officer

There’s one thing that Randy Barrone has been hailing his three sons about since they were teenagers — what do they want to do to make a living?

“I always knew what I wanted to do,” said the Georgia Tech Police Department captain. “So I couldn’t understand why they didn’t know.”

When Barrone was a kid, he noticed that when people heard police sirens, they would straighten up. He also took notice of how sharp officers looked in their uniforms.

“One day, an officer took the time to come over and say ‘hello’ to me, and that made a huge impression,” Barrone said.

“After that interaction, I knew that being a police officer is what I wanted to do — I couldn’t wait to be a superhero.”

He got his start after joining the army’s delayed entry program at age 17, where he worked as a military policeman for four years. Just before his initial commitment was to end, Barrone met his wife and decided to exit the military for civilian life.

He accepted a position at Tech and was promoted to sergeant after a year at the Institute. After moving through a variety of positions, more than 20 years later, Barrone is still happy to call Georgia Tech home.

“It’s the community at Tech that keeps me here,” he added. “I’ve just never had any reason to leave.”

Recently, The Whistle had a chance to learn more about Barrone and his time at the Institute.

What are a few things you want people to know about your job?

First, we have to do a lot of annual required training including updates on laws and protocol, firearms and use of force, and CPR and AED use. Also, we are sworn and certified police officers, just like those who would work for a city or a county. (We work for the state under the Board of Regents.)

We have all had to go through training at the police academy and have to complete a minimum of 20 hours of training each year. (You lose your arrest powers if you don’t get the training.) Finally, we value feedback, so if you have comments to share — good or bad — don’t be afraid to let us know.

What is a day in your job like?

These days, I participate in meetings, and I work in the office a good bit. I oversee crime prevention, training, physical security, and records and asset management. The only challenge with this is that when you’re in a management position in an office, you sometimes forget what it’s like to be on patrol.

So, I try to really listen to what officers who are on patrol are telling me about their experiences.

Are you a fan of social media — what type?

I’m a Facebook person. I love being able to see all of the pictures.

What piece of technology could you not live without?

My Droid phone. It has everything on it that I could need.

What is your favorite part of campus?

The top of Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center’s parking deck in Tech Square.

Square. Up there, you can see and hear the city in a way that you can’t in other spots.

What professional accomplishment are you most proud of?

I earned a master’s degree in social science from Mercer University.

Where is your favorite place to have lunch?

The McDonald’s on Hemphil because the people watching is great. I’d order a cheeseburger and fries and just watch the characters that come through.

Tell us something unique about yourself.

I’ve taught stress management. As part of my ongoing continuous education to become a police officer, I was given the opportunity to become a certified instructor at the police academy. So, I attended a two-week school, which involved having to present a lesson — and I focused mine on stress management. The next thing I knew, I was asked to actually do the same training for the police academy.

CLASSIFIEDS

REAL ESTATE/ ROOMMATES

3BR/2.5BA bonus room/2.5BA 2,543 sq. ft.; two story; five bedrooms (quiet neighborhood); rents ($1,250) or less than $175,000), available now. Customer-driven. Hardwood and neutral plush carpet; privacy-fenced backyard; master and laundry on main. Only 17 miles from Tech I-1-2-3. Call 404-384-5571.

3BR/2.5BA peaceful, furnished, waterfront cottage along the southern outer banks (Morehead City, N.C.). $750/wk; $600, central A/C, W/D, hammock, and 400- foot dock. Boat slip; NO SMOKING OR PETS. More info available at http://travel. u.disu.edu or email just.nady@ gatech.edu.

For sale: 2BR/1BA condo in Andermont Park, Midtown/Buckhead area, $100K. Central A/C, hardwood floors, washer/dryer, and two off-street parking spaces. Walking distance to restaurants/mauseums. Call Rhonda Dufty 678-366-7846.

MISSCENLEAN

Looking for partners to join a guided climb of Mt. McKinley (Denali) during July/Aug 2014. Interested? Contact jagwong7@gmail.com.

Fancy chest of drawers with rounded-top doors closing over the top. Three drawers. Two large bottom drawers. Top of chest is bell shaped. Furniture stores sell lower quality for $800 and up – $350 or make an offer. Call 678-429-4964 or email (lynchp@windstream.net).

Black and white bony available for potential sale. Material is in excellent health and friendly. Cage and food provided. Email: lubnyk68@gmail.com.

Several beautifully framed paintings for home or office including a Thomas Blackshear painting; the Prayer of Jabez; The 10 Commandments; and a large portrait featuring famous African-American writers and poets. Call 404-642-1263.

Xerox ColorQube 8570N laser printer with extra set of CMYK and ink triads. NEARLY NEW. Works great for office, lab, or home. $600 for 60K million for network printing. Call 678-395-5067.

Camera ColoredQuad 870N laser printer with extra set of CMYK and ink triads. NEARLY NEW. Works great for office, lab, or home. $600 for 60K million for network printing. Call 678-395-5067.

Contemporary silver metal queen size bed with mattress. Like new $250. Photo available upon request. Email cutifyfiredreams18@gmail.com.

Aptos a Tech kitten or cat. All are spayed/neutered with some shots. Reduced adoption fees for employees, students, and affiliates. Contact www.krazyaboutcats.com, jgiles@cc.gatech.edu, or marilyn.jmellis@gatech.edu.

Carrondale Mountain/Road Bike. Magnum model. Wheel quick release; Derailer drivetrain; warranty, more. Purchased about 2002 and rarely used. Seat has tear in it. 6450 OBO. Call 678-642-6891.


Ads run for at least three issues in the order in which they are received. Submit your 35-word-or-less ad to editor@comm.gatech.edu.

Community News

Buzzworthy Achievements at Tech

INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

The following Georgia Tech employees and units have received honors in recent months:

• Bob Neren, professor emeritus in the School of Mechanical Engineering, was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine International Society-Americas Chapter.

• Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) named the following people GTRI Fellows for 2014: Giselle Bennett, director of GTRI’s Electro-Optical Systems Lab; Wayne Daley, principal research engineer in GTRI’s Aerospace, Transportation, and Advanced Systems Laboratory; Lou Fergon, principal research engineer for the Satellites and Electromagnetic Applications Laboratory; and Bill Underwood, principal research scientist in the Information and Communications Laboratory.

• Elizabeth Campbell, an employee of Institute Communications who died last spring, was awarded a Community Partner Award for 2012 from the Georgia Tech Police Department.

• The Student Alumni Association received Council for Advancement and Support of Education-affiliated Student Advancement Programs Awards for its Mentor Jackets and Expert Jackets programs.

• Rich DeMillo, director of the Center for 21st Century Universities, was named an inaugural Lumina Foundation Fellow.

• The Office of Undergraduate Admission was named one of the 100 Best Places to Work in Atlanta by the Atlanta Business Chronicle.

• Alexander Alexeev, assistant professor in the School of Mechanical Engineering, received a CAREER Award from the National Science Foundation.

• Stacy Braukman, Campaign Georgia Tech writer and editor, will receive a Willie Lee Rose Award from the Southern Association for Women Historians for her book, Communists and Perverts under the Palms.

• Zhong Lin Wang, Regents Professor in the School of Materials Science and Engineering, was awarded the 2014 James C. McGroddy Prize for New Materials from the American Physical Society.

• Christine Ries, professor in the School of Economics, was elected to serve on the board of the Georgia Cyber Academy.

• Lon Pringle was named GTRI’s director for research.

• Jeffrey Hu, associate professor in Scheller College of Business, received the inaugural Best Paper in Information Systems Award for Management Science.

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