Where can I learn more about Tech’s sustainability initiatives?

Visit www.gatech.edu/greenbuzz. Green Buzz is a centralized resource for informing, showcasing, and encouraging green behaviors, activities, initiatives, and events at Tech. It was designed to showcase the myriad ways in which the Tech community is working to change how people think about and use the planet’s raw materials.

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

RSVP for the event at the Student Center Ballroom. Luncheon, which will be held on April 11 at noon in the Student Center Ballroom. RSVP for the event at http://c.gatech.edu/1frDslA.

Donate Now to Annual Office Supply Exchange

Donate your unused pens, file folders, and other supplies to the annual Office Supply Exchange, which will be held during the April 18 campus Earth Day celebration. Donations will be accepted at the Office of Solid Waste Management and Recycling on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., until March 27, or Thursdays at the Georgia Tech Farmers Market on Tech Walk. http://c.gatech.edu/19DoGx.

Images flashed across 10 screens on the front wall.

Although the room feels like an air traffic control center, it’s really an enhanced operation center at the Georgia Tech Police Department (GTPD). The department installed 26 cameras along the major arteries leading into campus. This creates a video fence around the perimeter of campus and allows for a broader view of what’s going on in real time. Interim Chief Rob Connolly said, “This is just another tool for us to keep the campus safe,” Connolly added.

In deciding where to place the cameras, GTPD reviewed prior incidents and access points to determine which locations would have the most impact. The department already has the ability to patrol more than 600 fixed building cameras scattered around campus.

Six students — who work part-time — patrol the cameras, seeing things officers can’t. The cameras provide aerial and street views and have the ability to observe different angles and zoom in and out.

“The officer’s vantage point is what can be seen on foot or in the car,” said Walter Warner, the operations center manager. “Now we have an extra set of eyes on campus.”

Video analysts provide dispatchers and officers with additional information about a suspect’s location and description. When there’s an active incident, they can observe patrol officers to ensure their safety. Connolly said GTPD is collecting data to measure the effectiveness of the cameras, and that effort is already making an impact.

A camera caught a young man improperly touching a female student. The operations center staff zoomed in on the footage, getting a close-up of the perpetrator. A police officer recognized the subject, having just stopped him for being suspiciously on campus.

INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

AMELIA PAVLIK
OIT to Share Master Plan at Town Halls

From choosing a Smart Board for a classroom to software for the entire campus, a number of technology-related decisions are constantly being made at Georgia Tech.

That’s why the Strategic Technology Investment Committee was tasked with creating an Institute Information (IT) Master Plan in 2013. “To the best of my knowledge, this is the first time since the Olympics we’ve created a campus-wide IT master plan,” said Jim O’Connor, vice president of the Office of Information Technology (OIT). “We need a plan like this in place to ensure that the IT investments we’re making are strategic and effective.”

Since last summer, faculty, staff, and students have provided input regarding what they thought should be included in the plan. The document addresses IT needs up to five years from now and touches on the following key themes:

• Provide effective services to facilitate student success and

INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

AMELIA PAVLIK

5 Reasons Not to Miss the Atlanta Science Festival

Even with eight days of events at the Atlanta Science Festival, it’s safe to predict there’ll be only one genetically modified punk rock band: Leucine Zipper and the Zinc Fingers.

The band members, who were “derived” from Georgia Tech faculty Jennifer Leavey (biology), Michael Evans (chemistry), Joe Mendelson (biology), and Amit Reddi (biochemistry), describe themselves as “genetically modified organisms designed to rock.”

In other words, they’re professors dedicated to bringing STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) fields wider public attention and interest, specifically via catchy science-related rock anthems.

Their emergence as a band dovetails with the inaugural Atlanta Science Festival, which was founded by Tech, Emory

SCIENCE FESTIVAL, continued on page 3

TOWN HALLS, continued on page 2

www.whistle.gatech.edu
First-year Reading Program Gets a Makeover

After a number of years of encouraging incoming freshmen to participate in a common reading experience, a restructured program called Project One will aim to engage more of campus.

“The goal is to create a common experience, but also to get [incoming freshmen] primed for the kind of work they’ll be doing once they get to Tech,” said Nirmal Trivedi, director of academic transition programs in the Center for Academic Enrichment.

In the past, a campus committee selected a book that was then distributed to new students at FASET orientation. The book was subsequently used in assignments in GT1000 and ENGL1101/ENGL1102 courses.

With Project One, students will instead receive a packet of shorter readings of both fiction and nonfiction. Some may come from popular nonfiction works, while others may be written by academics but not necessarily be academic in nature.

The packet will likely be delivered electronically. Students will still use this reading in their introductory courses, but projects will have more focus on multimodality.

Incoming students will be given access to a bulletin where they will be able to create a profile and share responses to the readings. The idea is that they will already have shared a coursework experience before even arriving on campus.

“We want students to get a taste of the interdisciplinary and creative possibilities that await them,” Trivedi said.

The Center for Academic Enrichment will also facilitate having faculty and upperclassmen participate in the online conversations, and plans to coordinate a related keynote speaker and competition in the fall.

A committee composed of faculty from every college will help determine the final reading selections, but suggestions from current students, faculty, and staff are encouraged via an online form.

Many of the readings being considered touch on a theme of transition or transformation — themes that should ring true for new students.

Project One will begin this summer when the packet of short readings is distributed to incoming students.

Submit your feedback about Project One at http://c.gatech.edu/1cuMnIM

Buzzworthy Achievements

These employees and units have received honors in recent months:

- Aerospace Engineering faculty member Karen Feigh has been selected to join the Aeronautics and Space Engineering Board of the National Research Council.
- Professor Art Raguaskas, School of Chemistry and Biochemistry, has won the 2014 Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry Gunnar Nicholson Gold Medal Award.
- Rigoberto Hernandez, a professor in the School of Chemistry and Biochemistry, has been elected to the board of the American Chemical Society.
- Ben Zimm, Regents Professor in the School of Aerospace Engineering, has received the 2014 Reed Aeronautics Award from the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.
- Nelson Baker, dean of Professional Education, received the Joseph M. Biedenbach Distinguished Service Award from the American Society for Engineering Education Continuing Professional Development.

Award information is accepted on an ongoing basis. Please name, title, unit, and honor (spelling out acronyms) to editor@comm.gatech.edu.

GTDP CENTER, continued from page 1

Campus police warned other law enforcement agencies to be on the lookout for the suspect, and he was quickly arrested at nearby Georgia State University.

Video analysts can access recordings up to a month old, said Jeremy Tallant, a senior majoring in chemical engineering.

TALLANT, 38, is a veteran in the U.S. Navy for eight years as an air traffic controller.

And other he keeps their eyes open for anything potentially dangerous, such as larceny, reckless driving, or students walking alone. If they notice a potentially hazardous situation, they alert a dispatcher who decides whether to send an officer to the location.

Campus police expect their capabilities will only grow. In time, GTDP will have full interface with the Atlanta Police Department’s Video Integration Center.

“The goal is that they already have shared a coursework experience before even arriving on campus,” Connolly said.

“We are continuously finding new ways to fight crime on and around campus,” http://police.gatech.edu.

TOWN HALLS, continued from page 1

learning outcomes both in and out of the classroom.

- Investigate, support, and implement changing methodologies in learning, teaching, and research.
- Support the successful outcomes of research activities by enhancing and sustaining the systems needed for research and innovation.
- Maintain a scalable, reliable, and secure infrastructure that meets the changing and transformational needs of a globally connected and innovative research institution.
- Unify and streamline enterprise systems through more effective use of technology in a manner that is sustainable, secure, and user-friendly and reduces administrative overhead.
- Cultivate transparent technical leadership and governance to effectively guide information technology decision-making and strategic investments.
- To learn more about the plan, the campus community is invited to attend one of two town halls that will be held in March. The first is scheduled for March 24 at 1 p.m. in Room 152, Clough Commons. The second will be held on March 27 at 10:30 a.m. in the Student Center Theater. For more information, contact Robert Gerhart, project leader for the plan, at rgerhart@gatech.edu.
Affinity Groups Aren’t Just for Alumni

AMELIA PAVLIK
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

From military veterans to black alumni, Georgia Tech offers an affinity group for everyone. But there’s one major misconception about the groups — people think they’re just for alumni.

“The great thing about our affinity groups is that you don’t have to be a Tech grad to get involved,” said Debra Thompson, senior manager of the Alumni Association’s affinity groups. “All faculty, staff, and friends of Georgia Tech are invited to participate in the affinity groups.”

The groups got their start in 1979 when Tech band alumni decided to form a group to keep them connected to the Institute. Now, there are 23 official groups, including the Military Affinity Group, Black Alumni Affinity Group, Georgia Tech Women Alumnae Network.

Participating in an affinity group is an effective way to enhance your professional and social networks, share your expertise with the Tech community, and collaborate on campus events and projects with people who have similar interests to your own,” Thompson said.

Tina Payne, assistant director of cooperative education in the Center for Career Discovery and Development, has been a member of the Co-op Affinity Group for nine years.

“What I like most about being involved with the group is having the opportunity to see co-op alumni interact with current co-op students and share accounts of their respective experiences,” she said.

To join, people should contact the representative for the group they are interested in, Thompson said.

Some groups meet monthly or quarterly, with gatherings including networking opportunities, speaker panels, golf tournaments, and student mentoring opportunities.

For more information, email Thompson at debra.thompson@alumni.gatech.edu. For a full list of the groups and their representatives, visit http://c.gatech.edu/1kJ3hEb

3 Questions with Leucine Zipper and the Zinc Fingers

DAVID TERRASO
COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

Leucine Zipper and the Zinc Fingers are comprised of Leucine on vocals, Gringo erdido on guitar, X.O. Them on bass, and Call Modulin on drums. Recently, we had a chance to learn a little bit about the group.

Q: Tell me about the scientists who made you.
A: Leucine: The scientists took tissue samples from four Georgia Tech faculty members. I was derived from Jennifer Leavey who teaches biology at Tech.
Gringo: I was derived from Joe Mendelson who does research at Zoo Atlanta and teaches biology at Tech.
Cal: I was derived from Amit Reddi who studies metals in biology.
X.O.: I was derived from Michael Evans who teaches chemistry.

Q: How did you learn to play?
A: Leucine: We were taught in the lab. The scientists gave us instruments from the time we were big enough to hold them. So we have been rocking, essentially, since day 56.
Gringo: Given that rock is in our genes it naturally came to us.

Q: How were you made?
A: Leucine: The stem cells from which we were derived were genetically modified with a gene common to many rock musicians. So, we are in fact, transgenic humans that were produced specifically to rock more than the general public.

Q: How do you learn to play?
A: Leucine: We were taught in the lab. The scientists gave us instruments from the time we were big enough to hold them. So we have been rocking, essentially, since day 56.
Gringo: Given that rock is in our genes it naturally came to us.

For the full interview video, go to http://c.gatech.edu/1e09Z0b

Below are five events attendees won’t want to miss during the festival. Those interested in checking out Leucine Zipper and the Zinc Fingers can do so at the festival’s Exploration Expo on March 29 in Centennial Olympic Park from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

1 InVenture Prize Final Round, Wednesday, March 26 (7:30-9 p.m.), First Center Theater (free but registration required). Cheer for Tech students as they display their entrepreneurial prowess in this innovation competition. Eight teams of finalists will present their inventions before industry experts, with entries ranging from a smart pacifier to a mobile toilet. Reserve tickets at inventureprize.gatech.edu.

2 Science on the Screen: Contagion, Thursday, March 27 (7-10 p.m.), Emory University, White Hall (free). Ever wondered what would happen to the U.S. populace if a lethal virus were released upon society? Find out how the facts differ from fiction by watching Contagion and engaging in a live Q&A with scientists from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

3 Apple Pop-Up Exhibit, Saturday and Sunday, March 22-23 (10 a.m.-5 p.m.), Kings Market Shopping Center ($10 for adults). The Maclook Pro in a Tech student’s backpack may reflect its owner’s life — his pictures, favorite applications, and homework documents — but it has an untold history all its own. Take a journey through the years to understand where Apple Inc. came from and where it’s going.

4 Science to Farm to Plate: A Culinary Farm and Tour Tasting, Tuesday, March 25 (6-7:30 p.m.), Gaia Gardens ($25 fee; registration required). Delve into the heart of a local organic farm, Gaia Gardens, for a tasting experience fusing fresh foods, agricultural sciences, and local farm-to-table dining philosophies. Hors d’oeuvres prepared by Kimball House chefs Phillip Meeker and Jeffrey Wall. Tickets at brownpapertickets.com.

5 Journey to the Dork Side, Sunday, March 23 (7-8:30 p.m.), Sketchworks Comedy Club (free). If, when wondering about the identity of a physicist’s favorite food, the answer came to you as “fission chips,” look no further for tailor-made science humor. Stand-up comedy provided by Tech faculty members Pete Ludovice and Lew Lefson, among others.

http://atlantasciencefestival.org

MISCELLANEOUS

March 25 Celebrate Women’s History Month as women of Georgia Tech share stories of challenges, struggles, and triumphs through the use of dramatic monologue, narrative, and poetry from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in President’s Suites B and C. Student Success Center. Register at http://c.gatech.edu/1eak2yi

The Take Back the Night candlelight vigil will be held at 7 p.m. at the Campanile. The vigil honors survivors of sexual assault.

March 27 The campus farmers market will be held on Thursdays through April 24 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. along Tech Walk. For more information, visit http://c.gatech.edu/100msh7

March 29 Motor vehicles of all types owned by students, former students, faculty, staff, alumni, fans, and corporate sponsors will be on display at the Georgia Tech Auto Show from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Instructional Center Parking Lot. www.gatechaustoshow.com

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

CLASSIFIEDS

AUTOMOBILES

2002 Mazda Protege 5. Blue. $3,300 OBO. One owner, 208,366 miles, all maintenance up to date. Power steering, four-door hatchback, PWD, power windows/door locks. Call 678-701-7202 or email inpugalty@gmail.com.

Classifieds continued on page 4

EVENTS

March 20 The Office of Emergency Preparedness will offer “See Something, Say Something” training on identifying suspicious situations and who to report them to from 9 to 10 a.m. in Room 317, Montgomery Knight Building. Register at trainsonline.gatech.edu

March 21 The Office of Human Resources will host a training session on “Giving and Receiving Feedback” from 9 to 11:30 a.m. in Room 148, Global Learning Center. Register at trainsonline.gatech.edu

TRAINING

March 20 The Office of Emergency Preparedness will offer “See Something, Say Something” training on identifying suspicious situations and who to report them to from 9 to 10 a.m. in Room 317, Montgomery Knight Building. Register at trainsonline.gatech.edu

March 21 The Office of Human Resources will host a training session on “Giving and Receiving Feedback” from 9 to 11:30 a.m. in Room 148, Global Learning Center. Register at trainsonline.gatech.edu

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www.whistle.gatech.edu
Volunteer for Tech Beautification Day

INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

If you’re looking for a way to give back to Georgia Tech while getting to know students, consider rolling up your sleeves and volunteering for Tech Beautification Day on March 29 from 9 a.m. to noon.

The event started in 1998 as a day of service where students could give back to Tech through a combination of on-campus cleanup and landscaping tasks. Over the years, participation has grown to more than 1,000 volunteers.

Confirm Ethics, Conflict of Interest Understanding by April 18

OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES

On an annual basis, every Institute employee is asked to affirm understanding of Tech’s ethical standards and conflict of interest policy, and certify all external activities and financial relationships.

This year, all faculty, staff, and student employees are asked to complete all of the above by April 18.

Employees can visit “My Compliance Campaigns” on TechWorks (techworks.gatech.edu) to learn more about the code of ethics and conflict of interest regulations, and submit the required information.

Those who don’t complete the process will receive a formal disciplinary notice, and their access to Tech-authenticated systems will be restricted.

Questions? Email ethics.ask@ohr.gatech.edu.