Scheller College Welcomes New Dean

INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Maryam Alavi, Ph.D., current interim dean of Emory University’s Goizueta Business School, has accepted Georgia Tech’s offer to serve as the next dean of the Scheller College of Business. Her appointment will begin July 1.

As an expert in information technology innovations and strategic applications, Alavi is the John and Lucy Cook Chair in Information Strategy at Emory. During her tenure at the Goizueta Business School, she has served in multiple leadership positions, provided strategic direction for several academic programs, and assembled a world-class faculty with a leading-edge research and teaching portfolio.

Alavi’s research and leadership in technology-mediated learning were the guiding forces behind the development of Goizueta Business School’s Modular Executive MBA format. She is also the architect of the concepts and approach forming the leadership development curriculum across the school’s educational programs.

In announcing the appointment, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Rafael L. Bras cited the breadth of Alavi’s academic and administrative experience, and its alignment with the leadership needs of the Scheller College of Business.

“I am thrilled to welcome Dr. Maryam Alavi to the Georgia Tech family,” Bras said. “The Scheller College of Business is in a perfect position to benefit from Dr. Alavi’s scholarship, experience, and deep knowledge of business education and research. She has a clear understanding of the competitive advantage of the Scheller College of Business under the umbrella of the Georgia Tech brand, culture, and vision — and of how to realize the benefits of that advantage.”

During her career, Alavi has held faculty positions at the University of Houston and the University of Maryland at College Park, and was a Marvin Bower faculty fellow at Harvard Business School.

“When I am asked my personal reason for accepting Georgia Tech’s offer to serve as the next dean of the Scheller College of Business, it is clearly the vibrant academic culture, the outstanding students and faculty, and the national reputation of Georgia Tech,” Alavi said. “I am particularly excited by the synergistic possibilities presented by the fusion of Georgia Tech’s brand and intellectual assets with Scheller College’s capabilities and resources. Our current era of technology growth and technology-driven innovation, coupled with the dynamic Atlanta business environment, uniquely positions the Scheller College to excel rapidly and contribute significantly to business and society.”

Alavi earned her master’s degree in

BOR Approves Smoke-Free Policy

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

During the March 18-19 meeting, the Board of Regents approved a policy to require all properties owned, leased, rented, in the possession of or in any way used by the University System of Georgia (USG) or its affiliates to go tobacco and smoke free as of Oct. 1.

The new policy prohibits the use of all forms of tobacco products including cigarettes, cigars, pipes, all forms of smokeless tobacco, clove cigarettes, and any other smoking devices that use tobacco (such as hookahs) or simulate the use of tobacco (such as electronic cigarettes). Details about how the policy will be enforced at Georgia Tech will be shared at a later date.

In other meeting news, the board:
• Established the John Portman Dean’s Chair in the College of Architecture and appointed Steven French to the position effective immediately. (See story at right.)
• Approved the establishment of the Charlotte B. and Roger C. Warren Chair in the School of Computer Science and appointed Richard DeMillo to the position.
• Recognized Tech as one of six USG entities to receive the Award of Distinction for Excellent Financial Reporting in FY2013.

Architecture Creates Portman Dean’s Chair

OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT

With one stroke of a pen, guided by a truly visionary alumnus, the College of Architecture has taken a giant step forward.

With that step, Architecture now becomes the fourth College at Tech to create an endowed dean’s chair — a move that recognizes one of the most prestigious levels of academic leadership and drives the College upward. The chair will bear the name of one of Georgia Tech’s most distinguished graduates, renowned architect John C. Portman Jr.

“The dean’s chair will bear the name of one of Tech’s most distinguished graduates, renowned architect John C. Portman Jr.,” Portman explained. “Georgia Tech is a jewel in Atlanta’s crown, and the College of Architecture played a pivotal role in the shaping of my life. I am honored to partner with the institution that means so much to me, while it aims to ensure generations of aspiring architects
As part of the 10-year reaffirmation of its accreditation, Georgia Tech has selected a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) for student learning. The QEP will focus on learning anchored in real-world sustainability problems.

The purpose of the QEP is to enhance the quality of student learning outcomes and the environment of learning. The QEP is directly related to the Institute's strategic plan. It will have a detailed implementation plan and a budget for five to 10 years of support. According to Mary Shromaker and Rachit Kansal, co-chairs of the Sustainability Committee of the Student Government Association, students are increasingly aware of the challenges of sustainability and are acting on their desires to positively impact the world around them through available curricular and co-curricular activities.

However, to date, there is no coordinated curricular effort in this area. This QEP will not only fill this void, it will also immerse students in learning opportunities where they work on sustainability-focused problems drawn from the community, businesses, and government. The capabilities that they develop in the process will translate to the workplace where they work on sustainability-focused problems drawn from the community, businesses, and government. The capabilities that they develop in the process will translate to the workplace where they work on sustainability-focused problems drawn from the community, businesses, and government.

The QEP will be a coordinated curricular effort that immerses students in learning opportunities where they work on sustainability-focused problems drawn from the community, businesses, and government.

“A successful QEP will result in Georgia Tech graduates who have a deep understanding of the societal impacts of economic value creation and the needs of communities they live and work in,” said Ellen Zegura, professor of computer science in the College of Computing and co-author of the QEP. “This depth of understanding will not be attained when it is sought as an ‘add-on.’ Rather, the interdependence of economic and societal value must be integrated as part of our students’ core education, and our students must be challenged to work on relevant problems that cut across disciplinary boundaries. The QEP aims to help students, who are already sought-after for their disciplinary expertise, to become creators of joint environmental, social, and economic value throughout their lives and careers.

Reaffirmation is the process by which Tech must prove to a review team from peer institutions via the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) that the Institute is qualified to continue to award academic credit. SACSCOC, the regional body for the accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions in the nation’s southern states, works closely with the U.S. Department of Education. The QEP is due to SACSCOC by December 2014. More than 80 percent of the onsite accreditation review in March 2015 will focus on the QEP.

The QEP concept papers were presented to the QEP Advisory Committee in February, followed by another round of consultation. The Committee selected two proposals, which were merged to create one QEP.

“What makes the intersection between contextual learning and sustainability so exciting as a QEP is that it lends itself to defining clear learning objectives and to institutionalizing a growing interest among all students,” said Colin Potts, provost for Undergraduate Education. “They want to use their skills and knowledge to make a difference in the world — directly and personally in ways they can empathize with — and the QEP gives us an opportunity to focus that excitement and passion in an academically productive way.”

Rafael L. Bras, provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs, said the Institute is a great institution that can only get better through this process.

“The SACSCOC reaffirmation process should be used to take stock of all that we are doing well and identify all that we can do better,” Bras said. “We have the advantage of being able to build on a visionary strategic plan and several years of discussion, analysis, and implementation efforts. The selected QEP reflects those efforts. I am confident that like past QEPs — focusing on the International Plan and Undergraduate Research — this QEP will make the Georgia Tech educational experience even better.”

Tech’s official reaffirmation process began last June and will continue through the end of 2015. Catherine Murray-Rust, vice provost for Learning Excellence and dean of Libraries, is Tech’s accreditation liaison and is responsible for overseeing the reaffirmation process.

**BOR, continued from page 1**

- Approved the revised mission statement for Tech (which is consistent with Tech’s strategic plan)
- Appointed Brasfield & Gorrie LLC to manage construction of the Price Gilbert-Crosland Tower Library renovation project
- Authorized renovation of the baseball stadium. View the full meeting agenda at [http://c.gatech.edu/1nUk1GD](http://c.gatech.edu/1nUk1GD)

**DEAN, continued from page 1**

Program in Business Ethics. “I want to take the opportunity to express my gratitude to Dean Steve Salbu for having led the College so well for eight years,” Bras said. “He leaves the College moving in an increasingly positive direction, with positive momentum to climb to the next level in a progressively competitive environment.”

[http://scherrell.gatech.edu](http://scherrell.gatech.edu)

**THE WHISTLE** • March 31, 2014 • PAGE 2
**Donate Items for 2014 Earth Day Events**

**INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS**

Kick off your spring cleaning by gathering items to contribute to Georgia Tech’s Earth Day efforts.

Leading up to the April 18 Earth Day celebration, members of the campus community may donate used athletic shoes, clothing, e-waste, and office supplies for one of the following Earth Day projects:

- **Reuse-A-Shoe**: The Nike Reuse-A-Shoe program grinds up old athletic shoes and turns them into material used to build running tracks, basketball courts, and tennis courts. Used athletic shoes (with rubber bottoms) can be dropped off at the Office of Solid Waste Management and Recycling (947 Atlantic Dr., 404-385-0088), Barnes & Noble @ Georgia Tech Bookstore, and Burdell’s. For a list of other drop-off locations, visit earthday.gatech.edu.

- **Clothing Swap**: Gently used clothing and accessories are being collected for the sixth annual Clothing Swap, which will be held during the 2014 Earth Day celebration. At the event, students, faculty, and staff may shop the donated items free of charge. Drop-off locations include the Office of Solid Waste Management and Recycling, Barnes & Noble @ Georgia Tech Burbell’s, or you can drop off items Thursdays at the farmers market on Tech Walk from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For a list of other drop-off locations, visit earthday.gatech.edu.

- **E-Waste Drive**: Tech has partnered with Atlanta Recycling Solutions to host an electronic recycling drive. E-waste, including laptops and keyboards, can be dropped off during the Earth Day festivities, or items can be dropped off ahead of time at the Office of Solid Waste Management and Recycling. (Email recycle@gatech.edu for an appointment.) Personal e-waste only. For a list of items that can be recycled, visit earthday.gatech.edu.

- **Office Supply Exchange**: Donate unused supplies for the Office Supply Exchange. At the Earth Day celebration, members of the campus community can shop the donated items free of charge. Drop off supplies at the Office of Solid Waste Management and Recycling Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., or you can drop off items Thursdays at the farmers market on Tech Walk.

**Reserve Parking Permits Now**

**PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

Starting April 1, you can use The Driver’s Seat (driverseat.gatech.edu) to reserve your 2014-15 Georgia Tech parking permit.

To guarantee your current parking location for the upcoming academic year, renew your annual individual permit between April 1-15.

New permit sales open on April 21 at 8 a.m., including annual individual, carpool, evening/weekend, SmartPark, and motorcycle permits.

Existing permit customers who want to change locations or permit types, and new permit customers should make their purchases at this time. Individual permits will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

Wait lists, a new feature offered by The Driver’s Seat, will also be available starting April 21. If you aren’t able to reserve a permit for the lot of your choice, add yourself to a wait list for the chance to receive it later in the year. For more information, visit pts.gatech.edu.

**Donate your unused office supplies for this year’s Earth Day Office Supply Exchange, which will be held on Friday, April 18.**
**Wang to Receive Distinguished Prof Award**

**AMELIA PAVLIK**

INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Growing up in the Chinese countryside, Zhong Lin (Z.L.) Wang aspired to follow in his father’s footsteps at a local factory.

“From the time I was 5 years old until I was 16, college education was not available to young people in China, so I thought working in a factory was my only option,” said Wang, Regents Professor and Hightower Chair in the College of Engineering, of the period of China’s history known as the Cultural Revolution. “But during my last year of high school, things changed, and I took the national exam to go to college. From that point on, one opportunity led to the next. After completing college in China, Wang was invited to participate in the national examination to be selected as one of the top 100 students to attend graduate school in the United States, which is when he realized what he wanted to do in life — teach.

His love for teaching is just one of the reasons Wang was selected to receive this year’s Class of 1934 Distinguished Professor Award at the Faculty and Staff Honors Luncheon on April 11.

**TAKING A RESEARCH RISK THAT PAID OFF**

When Wang arrived at Tech in 1995, he was one of the few scientists conducting research in the area of nanoscience — or the study of the performance of ultra-small materials and devices.

Along the way, Wang invented the nanogenerator and figured out how it could harvest mechanical energy using nano-enabled technology.

“For example, one of his projects focused on how a nanogenerator in a collapsible backpack could collect energy that could charge a person’s electronic devices such as cell phones,” said Wang. “I remember being the only one doing this type of research when I started,” he said. “Now, this is a well-established research field. I took a risk, but I’d also say that it paid off.”

**GROWING THE FAMILY TREE**

But even more important to Wang than research is mentoring students. The most satisfying part of his job is seeing students who initially aren’t excited about taking one of his courses become engaged, he said.

“One of the challenges of my job is getting students excited about the field of nanoscience,” Wang said. “But I think that, in many cases, if I share my excitement with them, it becomes contagious.”

And it’s obvious that Wang has inspired a number of young people. He has advised and graduated more than 40 Ph.D. students, three master’s students, numerous undergraduate students, and more than 110 postgraduate students, and more than 110 postgraduate students.

These students are making their mark around the world, with eight teaching at U.S. research universities, while 10 are in faculty in Taiwan, three in Korea, and 60 in China.

“I like to see my students choose to become professors,” Wang said. “It has been a pleasure to watch my so-called ‘family tree’ grow. And it is an honor to receive the distinguished professor award and be recognized for something I genuinely enjoy doing.”

**Take 4: Z.L. Wang**

Here are four facts about Z.L. Wang, Regents’ Professor and Hightower Chair in the College of Engineering:

- **Favorite Spot on Campus:** The Student Center.
- **Best Lunch Spot:** Zen on Ten.
- **In His Spare Time:** Jogs (which he’s been doing for 20 years) and plays a little basketball.
- **Person He’d Want to Have Dinner With:** His wife. “I travel a lot and don’t get to see her as often as I would like,” he said.

**Nothing can replace the joy that a loved one or cherished friend brings to our lives.**

Each spring, we honor the memory of students, faculty, and staff members who have passed away in the last year, join us as we pay tribute to these individuals who have touched our lives and contributed to our community.

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**When the Whistle Blows**

**GEORGIA TECH’S REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY**

Blow on, stern Monarch of Tech’s mighty crew,
Be always firm and staid.
To your compelling call we’ll e’re be true
Be always firm and staid:
Be always firm and staid:

Take 4: Z.L. Wang

Wang to Receive Distinguished Prof Award

Z.L. Wang arrived at Georgia Tech in 1995. At that time, he was one of the few scientists conducting research in nanoscience.

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