Up With the White, Gold, and Green

INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

On Friday, April 18, the likes of Captain Planet and a Recycling Bag Monster will join hundreds of members of the Tech community as they gather on Tech Walk for the 17th annual Georgia Tech Earth Day celebration.

In one of the largest Earth Day events in the Southeast, attendees will be able to enjoy a clothing swap, electronics recycling, a shoe-shooting basketball competition, and live music and poetry performances. A group of students, faculty, and staff work nearly year-round to make Tech's Earth Day one of the most fun and festive days on campus.

But it's not the only day the Institute demonstrates its collective passion for being a leader in sustainability.

“With all of the great and creative minds we have on this campus, we see a ton of inspiring projects and initiatives our community is working on to address the problems facing our planet,” said Kate Curnow, marketing manager for Barnes & Noble at Georgia Tech and a member of the Earth Day committee executive board.

A few days before the celebration, on April 16, U.S. Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz will visit campus as part of Tech's biennial Sam Nunn Bank of America Policy Forum. This year’s theme is: “U.S. Competitiveness Amid a Changing Natural Gas Landscape.” Additionally, Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs Rafael Bras serves on the Secretary of Energy advisory board, a 19-member panel of leaders in science, business, government and academia.

EARTH DAY, continued on page 2

State Leaders Support Georgia Tech Initiatives During 2014 Legislature

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Georgia Tech and the University System of Georgia (USG) received exceptional support from the Georgia General Assembly in both funding and policy initiatives during the 2014 Legislative Session. These measures are now under consideration by Governor Nathan Deal, who has until Tuesday, April 29, to sign or veto any bill or resolution approved in the House and Senate.

“Due in large part to the strong support of legislative leaders and our external advocates, as well as active engagement by Institute leadership, Georgia Tech’s top legislative priorities were secured,” said Dene Sheheane, executive director of Government and Community Relations.

The General Assembly took several important budgetary actions that benefit the Georgia Tech community.

“The Institute was allocated funding for its key capital priority, $1.7 million in bonds for planning and design of the Library/Crosland Tower renewal project,” Sheheane said. “Also Georgia Tech secured $4.5 million in bond funding for the relocation of Environmental Health and

LEGISLATURE, continued on page 2

Institute Celebrates Faculty, Staff at Annual Luncheon

A number of Georgia Tech faculty and staff members were celebrated during this year’s honors luncheon including (from left to right): Joel Sokol, School of Industrial and Systems Engineering; David Williams, Office of Information Technology; Michael Best, School of International Affairs; Margaret Kosai, School of International Affairs, Dustin Hamilton, Campus Recreation Center; Stephanie Ray, Office of the Dean of Students; and Z.L. Wang, College of Engineering. For a full list of honorees and this year’s 25-Year Service Award recipients, see page 3.
New Tool Offers Researchers One Stop-Shop

AMELIA PAVLIK INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Paperwork, reports, and financials — these are the necessities that take precious time away from research, productivity, and progress. Georgia Tech is launching a new solution to ease the burden for its research community — MyResearchPortal.

“The research portal has made it possible for me to directly access my finances, and, for the first time, I can interact with financial administrators in a coherent way,” said Michael Stilman, assistant professor in the School of Interactive Computing. “It gives us a common language.”

This new application is just one of the ways that Georgia Tech is addressing the Strategic Plan goal of relentlessly pursuing institutional effectiveness. Instead of logging into dozens of different databases, researchers can visit MyResearchPortal to access all of the information they need.

“Think of it as being like a Grand Central Station for all your research information,” said David Moore, director of finance for the College of Sciences. “From contracting and compliance, to all the various other stages of research, MyResearchPortal is a one-stop shop.”

MyResearchPortal brings together financial information on funds from different sources including federal, state, foundations, and industry.

Users have to log in only once to find funding activity, subagreements, Institutional Review Board and other protocol expirations, pending proposals, deliverables, project balances, effort reporting, and cost sharing status. Also, users can customize their MyResearchPortal experience such that information is displayed the way they want it to be.

“MyResearchPortal was developed based on feedback from the Georgia Tech faculty as one means to help reduce administrative burden,” said Steve Cross, executive vice president for Research. “So, as researchers use the tool, we want them to let us know if there are any new features that would be useful.”

To start the MyResearchPortal experience, and share feedback, visit myresearch.gatech.edu

EARTH DAY, continued from page 1

Acknowledging Tech’s leadership in facilities and operations, Engineering News-Record (ENR) recognized Steve Swant, executive vice president of Administration and Finance, as a Top 25 Newsmaker for 2014. ENR selected Swant because of his dedication to sustainability, which he believes should be embedded in everything on campus.

Under Swant’s leadership, Tech has earned accolades from the Princeton Review, the Arbor Day Foundation, the U.S. Green Building Council, the League of American Cyclists, and Atlanta’s Clean Air Campaign for various aspects of campus operations.

“It’s not about doing the ‘green’ thing, but the right thing for the campus,” Swant said. “It’s about making sure Georgia Tech continues to exist.”

Since 1992, faculty and researchers have been doing this at the Brook Byers Institute for Sustainable Systems. The research institute has endowed three Brook Byers professorships, held by Bert Bras (mechanical engineering), Marilyn Brown (public policy), and Elsa Reichmanis (chemical and biomolecular engineering). The Brook Byers professorship is considered the highest title bestowed at Tech for faculty specifically engaged in sustainability-related research and education. John Cottenden (civil and environmental engineering) serves as director. The Brook Byers professors were honored at a Sustainability Celebration in March.

Students are equally involved in energy innovation on a national level. A Tech team won first place in the 2014 ACC Clean Energy Challenge in March, which includes a $10,000 prize from the Department of Energy (DOE). The four students will take their idea for a new electrical power grid technology to the DOE National Clean Energy Business Plan Finals in Washington, D.C., in June. Earlier this month, students from the Energy Club put together Tech’s first Energy Expo; the first Southeastern Biogeochemistry Symposium convened students, faculty, and researchers from around the region, and the Student Government Association’s spring Sustainability Forum focused on e-waste with a theme of “The Life Cycle of an iPhone.”

www.earthday.gatech.edu

LEGISLATURE, continued from page 1

Safety operations, moving hazardous materials to the edge of campus.

In terms of support to the USG, the General Assembly allocated $47.4 million to fund day-to-day operations across the System, including $11.4 million for a merit-based salary increase pool for USG employees. An additional $40 million in funding will address major building maintenance needs across the University System. Tech will receive a portion of these funds.

“Georgia Tech is pleased that the FY15 budget includes a total of $8.97 million in bond funding to support research through the Georgia Research Alliance,” Sheheane said.

“We believe that supports the growth of innovation in research and education,” Swant said.

Key policy actions from this session related to the Georgia Tech community include:

• The House and Senate passed a gun bill that did not include campus carry and maintains current law for USG institutions.

• The General Assembly passed a measure that will extend existing tax-exemption of USG property to private partners who operate student housing and other services for public colleges and universities.

• House members adopted a resolution creating a study committee on autonomous vehicles technology.

• The legislature did not pass a bill that would allow members of the Optional Retirement Plan a one-time switch into the Teacher’s Retirement Plan.

• A bill passed to prevent any state entity from establishing or administering an Affordable Care Act health insurance exchange also included language prohibiting state, local, and agency employees from using state resources to advocate in favor of Medicaid expansion in Georgia.

www.gov.gatech.edu
Congratulations to the following faculty and staff members who were honored at the 2014 Faculty & Staff Service Recognition Reception on April 8 and the Faculty and Staff Honors Luncheon on April 11.

25-Year Service Awards

- Krishan Ahuja (Aerospace Engineering)
- Patricia Anderson (Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI))
- Alan Barfoot (Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE))
- Christopher Bartes (Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE))
- Richard Bedell (Chemistry and Biochemistry)
- Mikosz Biegovic (ECE)
- Carole Bennett (Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISyE))
- William Bernland (Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI))
- Sandra Bramblett (Institute for Advanced Research and Planning)
- Lisa Bresee (GTRI)
- Margaretta Brown (GTRI)
- Ida Brown (GTRI)
- Charles Carstensen (GTRI)
- Giorgio Casinovi (ECE)
- David Chandler (Physics)
- Yih-Long Chang (Business)
- Min-Yin Chen (Chemistry and Biochemistry)
- Jacqueline Cox (Engineering)
- Lisa Cox (GTRI)
- Stephanie Curry (Science)
- Jacqueline Danskin (Library)
- Patrick Dowdy (GTRI)
- Charles Eckert (Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering (CBE))
- Bettina Fink (Library)
- Richard Fujimoto (Computational Science and Engineering)
- Christopher Gaddis (Alumni Assoc.)
- Vicki Galloway (Modern Languages)
- Ashok Goel (Interactive Computing)
- Arun Gokhale (Materials Science and Engineering (MSE))
- Thomas Habeler (ECE)
- Mark Harrah (Facilities)
- Jacqueline Herron (Advanced Communications Policy)
- Rod Hrineman (Facilities)
- Sheryl Holland (Institute Diversity)
- Timothy Israel (ECE)
- Ross Jones (Transportation)
- George Kardemas (ECE)
- Byron Keal (GTRI)
- Robert Kennedy (International Affairs)
- Paul Kohl (CBE)
- Sadat Kumar (MSE)
- Richard Levin (GTRI)
- Susan Liebeskind (GTRI)
- Robert Luck (Library)
- William Marshall (GTRI)
- Gary McMurray (GTRI)
- Julie Naramore (Academic Affairs)
- Radhakrishnaiah Parachuru (MSE)
- Gautam Patel (GTRI)
- John Papponis (Architecture)
- Anish Persaud (Public Policy)
- Andrew Peterson (Alumni Assoc.)
- Edward Poznanski (Environmental Health and Safety)
- William Price (Interactive Media)
- Mary Rander (ECE)
- Michael Salomone (International Affairs)
- Athanasios Sambaris (ONR)
- Jonathan Schwyer (History, Technology, and Society)
- Thomas Shands (GTRI)
- Lisa Stills (ECE)
- Howard Simpson (AE)
- Virgil Singshal (ECE)
- Dennis Smith (Facilities)
- Stephanie Sodipo (GTRI)
- Marilyn Somers (Alumni Assoc.)
- James Sevall (Physics)
- John Stanko (Interactive Computing)
- Robin Thomas (Mathematics)
- Dona Vendellas (AE)
- Gwendolyn Walker (Facilities)
- Youyi Yang (MSE)
- Janice Westbrook (Psychology)
- Mark Wheeler (GTRI)
- Canpin (Whitecarver Information Technology)
- Douglas Williams (ECE)
- Michael Willis (GTRI)
- Sudhakar Yalamanchi (ECE)
- Romale Yen San (GTRI)
- Chen Zhou (ISE)

Curriculum Innovation Award
- Amy Pritchett (Aerospace Engineering)

Innovation in Co-Curricular Education Award
- Jennifer Leavy (College of Sciences)

Faculty Award for Academic Outreach
- Stefan France (Chemistry and Biochemistry)

Eichholz Faculty Teaching Awards
- Linda Green (Biology)
- Donald Webster (Civil and Environmental Engineering)

Steven A. Denning Faculty Award for Global Engagement
- Michael Best (International Affairs)

Academic Advisor Awards
- Outstanding Undergraduate Academic Advising: Staff
- Kim Paige (Biomedical Engineering)

Outstanding Undergraduate Academic Advising: Faculty
- Linda Green (Biology)

Faculty Honors Committee Awards
- Outstanding Undergraduate Research Mentors (Faculty) Award
- Margaret Kosai (International Affairs)
- Materials Science and Engineering
- Outstanding Professional Education Award
- A.P. Sakis Melopoulus (Electrical and Computer Engineering)

Outstanding Service Award
- Michael Hunter (Civil and Environmental Engineering)
- Class of 1934 Outstanding Innovative Use of Education Technology Award
- James Hamblen (Electrical and Computer Engineering)
- Class of 1934 Outstanding Interdisciplinary Activity Award
- Bernard Kipplek (Electrical and Computer Engineering)
- Class of 1940 W. Howard Ector Outstanding Teacher Award
- Joel Sokol (Industrial and Systems Engineering)
- Class of 1940 W. Roane Beard Outstanding Teacher Award
- Zheng Lin (Materials Science and Engineering)
- Jane Zheng (ISE)

Outstanding Faculty Research Author
- in Research Program Development
- Office of the Executive Vice President
- David Knobbe and Matthew Marcus

Outstanding Doctoral Thesis Advisor
- John Cressler (Electrical and Computer Engineering)

Outstanding Faculty Leadership Award
- John Cressler (Electrical and Computer Engineering)

Outstanding Graduate Research Assistant
- in Action Award
- Christopher Rozell (Undergraduate)
- Michael Rodgers (Undergraduate)

Outstanding Achievement Award
- Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Seth Marder

ESSE Recognition Reception on April 8 and the Faculty and Staff Honors Luncheon on April 11.

April 18

- Don't miss the 17th Annual Georgia Tech Earth Day Celebration, which will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tech Walk. There will be free live music, free Earth Day T-shirts, a green energy challenge, green market, clothing swap, and more.

http://c.gatech.edu/1cC28aV

April 22

- This We Will session, sponsored by the Office of Human Resources, will focus on setting healthy lifestyle goals at 12:15 p.m. in the Piedmont Room, Register for the session at http://c.gatech.edu/1cC28aV

April 29

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

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CEISMC Camps Keep Burch Busy Year Round

AMELIA PAVLIK
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Summer camps. Most of us only think about them when it’s time to sign the kids up. But not Andrew Burch — he thinks about summer camps all year long.

That’s because Burch oversees Georgia Tech’s Center for Education Integrating Science, Mathematics, and Computing (CEISMC) summer camps for kids.

“I love seeing kids who weren’t even thinking about coming to college attend one of our camps … By the end of the week, they’re talking about coming to Georgia Tech.”

Georgia Tech. It’s one of my favorite parts of the job.”

Burch, who earned his bachelor’s in 2008 from what is now Scheller College of Business, started his career working for Guided Discoveries, a nonprofit educational organization that specializes in astronomy, physics, and outdoor education field trips and summer camps in California.

“I worked with kids who were in the fourth through ninth grade, teaching them to be involved in one of the CEISMC programs. When I started, we didn’t have any critics on campus. Most of us only think about summer camps and get to do something like build a robot to push a ball,” said Burch, who is education outreach manager. “By the end of the week, they’re talking about coming to Tech.”

What’s an average day in your job like?

I’m coordinating with people across campus to figure out the logistics — which includes everything from approving new camps to figuring out where participants will eat lunch every day. I also field a lot of calls and emails from parents with questions.

What is one professional accomplishment you’re most proud of?

Actually, I have two. The first is growing the CEISMC programs. When I started, we were serving about 800 students. Now, that number has increased to about 1,800. Also, we’ve been able to increase the amount of financial aid we can offer to families who might not be able to pay the camp tuition. Last year, we were able to offer about 80 scholarships.

If someone would like to submit a camp topic, how would they go about it?

If you’d like to suggest a camp focused on your field, just reach out to me. I’m always looking for ideas from students, faculty, and staff. We love being able to tie in research being done at Tech to programs for kids to see. The key is that if you want to be involved in one of the CEISMC programs, you need to be able to communicate the information — as technical as it may be.

INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Two Students Named Goldwater Scholars

AMELIA PAVLIK
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Adding to a long list of successful scholars, two Georgia Tech students recently earned the prestigious Goldwater Scholarship for their work in science and engineering.

Both Thomas F. Kieffer, a senior majoring in physics and applied mathematics, and Mohamad Ali Najia, a biomedical engineering undergraduate, have long aspirations to conduct research in their fields and teach at a university level.

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