Newly Renamed Renewable Bioproducts Institute Receives $43.6M in Legacy Funding

Georgia Tech has received a $43.6 million gift from the Institute of Paper Chemistry Foundation (IPCF). This major grant, one of the single largest gifts in Georgia Tech’s history, affirms the Institute’s position as a leading driver of the future of the forest bioproducts industry.

“We are extremely grateful to the Institute of Paper Chemistry Foundation for entrusting us with this generous gift,” said President G.P. “Bud” Peterson. “Through the Renewable Bioproducts Institute, we will maximize Georgia Tech’s and the state of Georgia’s strengths in sustainability and innovation to develop real-world applications as well as educate the next generation of leadership in the forest and bioproducts industry.”

The IPCF represents the legacy of the Institute of Paper Chemistry (IPC), founded in 1929 to provide scientific research and future leaders for the paper industry. IPC became the Institute of Paper Science and Technology (IPST) when it relocated to Atlanta in 1989. It subsequently merged with Georgia Tech in 2004.

In May, Georgia Tech announced that the IPST would be renamed the Renewable Bioproducts Institute (RBI) to reflect its expanding engagement with a broader range of biomaterials processing industries. Like Tech’s nine other Interdisciplinary Research Institutes, RBI brings together a multidisciplinary capability to identify opportunities and address the complex challenges facing its industry and government research partners.

“We believe the relaunching of IPST as the Renewable Bioproducts Institute is a natural development in its evolution and an important advance in its progress,” said IPCF Board Chair George Lanier. “Georgia Tech is demonstrating its commitment to this industry, which is so important to Georgia and the nation. The industry’s emerging opportunities can be effectively developed there.”

c.gatech.edu/rbigift

Human Rights Attorney to Receive Ivan Allen Jr. Prize for Social Courage

President G.P. “Bud” Peterson has announced that a prominent human rights attorney from Zimbabwe will be the recipient of the 2014 Ivan Allen Jr. Prize for Social Courage.

Beatrice Mtetwa has fought against injustice and defended press freedom for more than 20 years. She has endured harassment and arrest as a result of advocating for human rights, social justice, and women’s equality and advancement. Mtetwa is the first woman to receive the prize and will be honored during a ceremony at the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts scheduled for Nov. 13.

“Ms. Mtetwa has endured a sometimes painful journey to achieve the larger purpose of freedom and justice for all,” Peterson said. “That is the promise of a democracy, and Beatrice Mtetwa embodies the effort to fulfill that promise. There are some who, through great personal sacrifice and courage, impact the lives of countless individuals as well as those for generations to come. Ms. Mtetwa is one such person.”

The Ivan Allen Jr. Prize for Social Courage recognizes individuals who, by standing up for clear moral principles in the social arena, have positively affected public discourse at the risk of their own careers, livelihoods, and even their lives.

BLUEPRINT, continued on page 2

See Something, Say Something: Report Suspected Child Abuse

Summer is here, and with it comes an influx of children on campus. Accordingly, Georgia Tech reminds the campus community to be mindful of the legal obligation to report any suspected child abuse.

Summer camps — from Tech Wreck, to CEISMC, to sports — are just a few of Tech’s many outreach programs for minors. In fact, it is estimated that Georgia Tech engages with thousands of minors throughout the year — which underscores the importance of the Tech community understanding and upholding the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Policy. The Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Policy applies to any employee or volunteer at Georgia Tech who, through the scope of employment or volunteer duties, knows about child abuse or has good-faith reason to suspect that someone has committed child abuse either on or off Tech’s campus. This applies to all employees and volunteers even if they don’t work directly with minors.

“Not only is reporting child abuse the right thing to do, but an employee who does not report a suspected case of abuse could personally incur legal charges,” said Associate Athletic Director of Administration Mollie Mayfield, who facilitates a child abuse prevention program.

“It’s important that everyone understands that this applies to all of us; whether you work directly with minors or not.”

POLICY, continued on page 2
Two New Master’s Degrees Debut this Fall

Colleges of Computing, Engineering, Business Collaborate on One-Year Analytics Program

INDUSTRIAL AND SYSTEMS ENGINEERING

Georgia Tech is now offering a one-year Master of Science in Analytics to meet the growing demand for professionals who can transform data into relevant insights for making better business decisions.

“Analytics spans the fields of statistics, operations research, computing, and business. The Georgia Tech Master of Science in Analytics degree is one of the few truly interdisciplinary analytics degrees that include all of those areas. As a result, our graduates will be uniquely able to think across the disciplines as they generate deeper insights into analytics problems,” said Joel Sokol, director of the MS in Analytics program.

This interdisciplinary degree program leverages the combined strengths of Georgia Tech in statistics, operations research, computing, and business by melding the world-class expertise of the College of Engineering’s Stewart School of Industrial & Systems Engineering, the College of Computing’s School of Computational Science and Engineering, and the Scheller College of Business. By combining the strengths of these nationally ranked programs, graduates will be afforded the opportunity to integrate analytic skills in a unique and interdisciplinary way that yields deep insights into analytics problems.

www.analytics.gatech.edu/apply

CARIO NAMED DIRECTOR FOR OFFICE OF THE ARTS

Following a national search, Rafael Bras, provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs, and William Schaefer, vice president for Student Affairs, have appointed A. Madison Cario as director of the Office of the Arts, effective Aug. 4.

Cario comes to Tech from The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Pennsylvania, where she was named director of Student Engagement last year. She has served as the director of Special Artistic Initiatives as well as the director of Operations and Facilities.

“It is an honor to welcome Madison Cario to the arts leadership team,” Bras said. “My conversations with her made me confident in her leadership. Arts@Tech will continue to use the arts on campus to strengthen the research and study areas in significant ways.”

The primary charge of the Office of the Arts is to enhance the creativity of Tech students and faculty through engagement and participation in performing and visual arts experiences. The director is responsible for the Arts@Tech initiative’s operation, financial performance, and programming, as well as the operations and programming of the First Center.

“I cannot imagine a more exhilarating and inspiring place to be than here, right in the middle of the intersection of arts and technology,” she said. “With creative competency essential to global competitiveness in the 21st century, Arts@Tech is, simply put, the right idea at the right time.”

POLICY,

POLICY, continued from page 1

for Tech’s Athletic Association. “It is important that everyone understands that this applies to all of us; whether we work directly with minors or not.”

The reporting procedures are straightforward, and there is no liability for reporting in good-faith. If you suspect or have knowledge of an incident, immediately contact the Georgia Tech Police Department at 404.894.2300. In addition, you are required to inform your supervisor, program director, or, if necessary, another Georgia Tech official. Reports made will be confidential to the extent allowed by state law.

More information on this policy, including the Child Abuse Prevention Policy, can be found on the Policy Library website:

PolicyLibrary.gatech.edu

PRIZE,

PRIZE, continued from page 1

The selection of Mtwwa comes at a time when government leaders in Zimbabwe are again persecuting human rights defenders.

“I am hoping that the message that will be sent out there is that one can be true to their beliefs regardless of whatever dangers might be lurking in the background,” she wrote. “If more of us were prepared to do this kind of work, it would be more difficult to target them for persecution, and it is my hope that this award will help swell the numbers of people prepared to stand up for what is right.”

Mtwwa has been physically assaulted and has had her life threatened, although she continues to champion the work of civil activists and local and international journalists.

She also works to protect the rights of women and children; to preserve the essential rights of peaceful assembly, association, and speech; and to help farmers wrongfully evicted from their land by the government.

The prize comes with a $100,000 stipend.

Two New Master’s Degrees Debut this Fall

The George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering has established a joint Master of Science degree program with one of Europe’s top technical universities, the University of Stuttgart in Southern Germany.

This two-year program will require students to spend a year at each institution studying and conducting research, leading to the receipt of a single master’s degree in mechanical engineering from both schools.

Georgia Tech students spending their second year in Stuttgart will also do an internship with either Daimler-Benz or Bosch, gaining both industrial technical expertise and experience in international business.

www.analystics.gatech.edu/apply

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President Jimmy Carter, President G.P. “Bud” Peterson, and distinguished guests from around the world joined Ivan Allen College Dean Jacqueline J. Royster in May to introduce an exhibition of African art and artifacts to Atlanta.

KONGO across the WATERS features more than 120 historic and contemporary pieces spanning more than five centuries, including loans from the Royal Museum for Central Africa that have never before been exhibited in the U.S. “Through the work of the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts and that of the many distinguished partners and sponsors of this initiative, we are helping to increase understanding of contemporary Africa and global, cross-cultural innovation bridging liberal arts and technologies,” Peterson said.

Royster views the Africa Atlanta initiative as a gateway to opportunities for Atlanta and the Institute to build contemporary bonds, not only in the realms of arts and culture, but also in business and innovation, education, and global affairs including health and human rights.

Atlanta is the second leg of a three-city tour for KONGO across the WATERS, which is on display at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum until Sept. 21.
Safstrom Devoted to Improving Two-Wheeled Transit

During a bitter winter in January 1998, Lisa Safstrom loaded herself and her bike onto a Greyhound bus in Boston to visit a friend in Atlanta. She planned to stay for a week. Instead, she moved here.

“I was a bike messenger up there, and we worked in the worst weather,” Safstrom said. “I came down here in January, and it was 64 degrees.”

Safstrom continued working as a bike messenger in Atlanta, which eventually inspired her to enroll in graduate school at Georgia Tech in 2004 for City and Regional Planning. “I was used to biking everywhere in Boston, and I wanted to make Atlanta a better place for cyclists and pedestrians,” she said. “She’s worked in transportation planning since then and came to Tech from the Georgia Department of Transportation to fill the role of campus transportation planner last July. As campus transportation planner, Safstrom coordinates the many alternative transportation options offered by Parking and Transportation Services—Zipride, Zipcar, MARTA passes, BuzzBikes, carpool incentives—as well as campus transit, including the Stingrays, Trolleys, Stingerette, and GOTCHA Ride. She chooses to bike, riding in from Reynoldston and making her part of the 8 percent of campus that commutes by bike each day. “I’m so happy to be in an environment that supports a multimodal, alternative transportation network, because that’s what I’m really into.”

What are you working on right now that you’re excited about?

We just implemented a new bike rental program called BuzzBikes that lets students rent a bike for a semester at a time. We’re also adding electric vehicle charging stations around campus and working with Capital Planning and Space Management on the Campus Bike Master Plan.

What’s your favorite place on campus?

I walk the campus a lot, so I really like it. I like to get exercise during lunch and often walk east on Fers Drive so I can observe the transportation infrastructure for any issues.

What have you accomplished at Tech so far that you’re proud of?

The first small thing would be getting a sign at the Midtown MARTA station for the Tech Trolley—working with MARTA and the City of Atlanta on that was fun, too. We also won the PACE Award last year for State Employer of the Year.

What do you like about working in Parking and Transportation Services?

We have a great team and nice people. My supervisors, David Williamson and Lance Lunsaway, are really progressive and on board with providing alternative transportation options for campus. We’re working toward becoming a platinum-level Bicycle Friendly University.

What do you like to do outside of work?

I volunteer a lot—as a bike valet at events for the Atlanta Bicycle Coalition, with Atlanta Streets Alive, and with various arts groups like Living Walls. But mostly I like riding. I raced bikes for about 10 years and also once biked from Atlanta to Albuquerque, New Mexico, and have traveled abroad to see bike races in France and Italy. I also am interested in urban planning in general. I go to a lot of meetings—not specifically work-related—for projects such as the BeltLine and Streetcar.

Editor’s note: Get your 35-word-or-less ad to editor@comm.gatech.edu. Ads run for at least three issues in the order in which they are received. "Community News" edition is 4/8/14.

Diversity Roundtable Gets ‘Authentic about Inclusion’

Attendees connect over personal stories

BRIGITTE ESPINET
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Regular people telling real stories. That’s what struck Diversity Roundtable first-timer Alan Katz about the 2014 iteration of the discussion-driven workshop on inclusion and diversity hosted by the Office of Human Resources. The experience consisted of a morning storytelling salon and an afternoon luncheon.

“The effort was down-to-earth,” said Katz, assistant dean for Finance and Administration in the College of Computing. “It was all about people talking from the heart.”

From recounts of being stereotyped with regard to political affiliation because of color, to carrying around the burden of hiding an upbringing in poverty behind the mask of white, able-bodied maleness, the stories were all touching and deeply personal. “People’s willingness to share a lot of personal stuff through storytelling really encourages free conversation,” said David Leonard, director of Academic and Research Technologies in the Office of Information Technology.

This year, the free conversations revolved around the topic “Inclusion Means Everyone is in,” everyone—including the white male. Chuck Shelton, managing director of Greatheart Leader Labs, delivered the keynote address. He explained that “if we’re going to use a word like inclusion with integrity, it means we need to behave inclusively consistently.”

Cheryl Cofield, co-chair of the Diversity Roundtable Planning Committee, and Dean of Students John Stein during the morning storytelling salon.

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Cofield calls it audacious because, she says, it’s bold enough to prompt discussion around “the white male” in the context of diversity and inclusion. “If we want to be authentic about inclusion, then we have to include white men,” Cofield says. “If white men feel they’re not welcome in this work of diversity and inclusion, that means I have work to do.”

Speaking to the work that has been done so far, Chief Human Resources Officer Scott Morris says when he attended his first Diversity Roundtable three years ago, the feedback he shared with Committee Co-Chair Pearl Alexander was, “I think it could’ve been a little more inclusive.” His reaction to this year’s Roundtable: “I look out at the crowd today, and I think it is.”

Morris went on to say that, while the Institute is not exactly where it needs to be with its diversity and inclusion efforts, “We are definitely inclusive in terms of who we have in the conversation, and that’s a really good thing.”