**SACSCOC Compliance Self-Study Completed**

**Next step will be March on-site visit**

**VICTOR ROGERS**
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Last week, Georgia Tech submitted its self-study of compliance certification as part of the process for reaffirmation of accreditation. The self-study, which examines about 90 core requirements and principles over the entire spectrum of activities on campus, is required by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), the regional body for the accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions in the nation’s southern states.

The self-study, led by a Compliance Steering Committee comprised primarily of campus administrators and managers, is the process through which the Institute reviews its policies, procedures, and programs. The compliance certification is an opportunity for Tech to identify institutional weaknesses or problems and correct them, according to Catherine Murray-Rust, vice provost for Learning Excellence, dean of Libraries, and Tech’s SACSCOC accreditation liaison responsible for overseeing the reaffirmation process.

“The SACSCOC Reaffirmation is very important for Georgia Tech,” said Rafael L. Bras, provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs. “It offers us the opportunity for introspection, to identify areas we can improve, and to showcase to peers all the wonderful things we do. I want to take the opportunity to thank the individuals in every corner of the Institute for their great work in producing the self-study. I have no doubt that the quality of Georgia Tech will again be evident to all.

The self-study will be evaluated by a team of reviewers from other institutions and SACSCOC. There will be an opportunity to respond to any comments. The report evaluation will be followed by an on-site visit by a team of individuals from peer institutions.

The kick-off for the 10-year reaffirmation of Tech’s accreditation began in June 2013. The process will continue through the end of 2015 with the on-site visit scheduled for March 2015.

Georgia Tech’s self-study report to SACSCOC, page 4

**Student Startup Keeps Cars ‘FIXD’**

A student-developed app will soon help drivers diagnose the problems behind the glow of the dashboard “check engine” light. FIXD, which recently achieved its Kickstarter goal of raising $30,000, plugs into a car’s diagnostics port, just underneath the steering wheel, and connects to a driver’s smartphone via Bluetooth. It explains the cause for the check engine light, diagnoses the seriousness of the problem, and provides repair estimates. The sensor also delivers updates when the car needs regular maintenance. Above, co-founders Rachel Ford, a biomedical engineering student, and John Gattuso, a mechanical engineering student, explore the features of the app.

**Peterson to Co-Chair Safety Committee**

At its monthly meeting on Sept. 9, University System of Georgia (USG) Chancellor Hank Huckaby announced a new Campus Safety and Security Committee, appointing President G.P. “Bud” Peterson as co-chair.

The committee will convene over the next year to review USG policies and procedures related to safety on its 31 campuses and develop recommendations.
FERPA Outlines Student Info Privacy Rights

Top 5 things faculty and staff should know

RACHAEL POCKLINGTON
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

With the fall semester well underway, parents are often anxious to learn how their student is performing. If a parent contacted you about a student’s grades, would you know how to handle the situation?

“Student education records are protected under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act — known to most as FERPA,” said Georgia Tech Registrar Reta Pikowsky. “Taking a moment to familiarize yourself with this legislation can go a long way in helping you and the Institute avoid problems down the road.”

Here are the top five things that every faculty and staff member should know about this federal law:

1. FERPA gives students rights.
   Under the law, students have the right to inspect and review their education records, to request an amendment to their records if something is inaccurate or misleading, to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in their records; and to file a complaint with the Department of Education regarding FERPA noncompliance.

2. Each institution is unique.
   Colleges and universities have not implemented FERPA in the same way. For example, under FERPA, institutions are allowed to have their own definition of “directory information.” What is considered “directory” or “public” information at one institution can be different at another.

3. Certain student information should never be shared.
   At Tech, there are some kinds of information you should never provide without student permission including student ID numbers, citizenship, gender, ethnicity, religious preferences, grades, GPAs, and daily class schedules. Since these things are not defined as “directory information” at Tech, they can’t be shared without permission.

4. Records are protected from the get-go.
   This means student records are protected by FERPA as soon as an admitted student registers for classes, and under Tech policy, as soon as a student applies for admission.

5. When in doubt, don’t give it out.
   If you have FERPA questions or concerns, contact Pikowsky’s office at 404-894-4181.

Ultimately, the best method for a parent to understand a student’s grades is to communicate with the student. If a parent persists, a student can print an unofficial transcript at a.gatech.edu/ferpa.

The best practice for parents is to start the conversation early in the semester, and to stay in touch throughout the year. It’s not too late to start FERPA conversations with Tech students. Start the discussion early, and ensure that students are aware of the information that is protected by FERPA. This will help prevent problems down the road.

Other Sexual Violence Task Force Recommendations

• Develop a funded sexual violence prevention program to engage men.
• Develop a system for anonymous reporting of sexual violence.
• Develop a comprehensive on-call crisis response system.
• Position the Sexual Violence Prevention Alliance as a group to work directly with the proposed Sexual Violence Prevention Center.
• Create a standard protocol or policy for survivor accommodations.

Sponsoring multiple coordinated campuswide media campaigns to raise awareness about issues related to sexual violence on campus.

Create a working group, led by the Office of Human Resources, to draft changes to the Anti-Harrassment Policy.

Form an inclusive and diverse SGA-led student subcommittee to provide feedback on implementation of these recommendations.

Establish a Sexual Assault Response Team.
Four Georgia Tech faculty members have been recognized by the Board of Regents for exceptional contributions in education and research.

A Regents Professor and Regents Researcher title represents the highest academic and research status bestowed by the University System of Georgia. It is meant to recognize a substantial, significant, and ongoing record of scholarly achievement that has earned high national esteem over a sustained period.

Two academic faculty members were named as Regents Professors:
- Mark Hay, professor in the School of Biology.
- Dimitri Mavris, director of the Aerospace System Design Laboratory and professor in the School of Aerospace Engineering.

Two research faculty members were granted the title of Regents Researcher:
- Helena Mitchell, executive director of the Center for Advanced Communications Policy and principal research scientist in the School of Public Policy.
- Lora Weiss, principal research engineer and chief scientist, Georgia Tech Research Institute.

These individuals are among the finest scholars in the nation,” said Provost Rafael L. Brác. “They represent preeminence in scholarship and research, which, in turn, has important implications for Georgia Tech and for the economic success of the state. Most importantly, it is our students who benefit from the experience of being taught, advised, and mentored by these outstanding faculty.

Nominations are the result of a unanimous recommendation from the president, provost, executive vice president for research, a faculty committee, and college deans. “They have made tremendous contributions to the research, education, and economic development missions of Georgia Tech,” added Executive Vice President for Research Stephen E. Cross. “Beyond that, they are highly regarded for the impact their innovative ideas and technical accomplishments have had within the R&D community across the nation and around the globe.” The titles are awarded by the Board of Regents, which governs the University System of Georgia.

White House to Reappoint Peterson to Serve on National Science Board

MATT NAGEL
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

The White House has announced its intent to reappoint President G.P. “Bud” Peterson to the National Science Board (NSB), National Science Foundation (NSF).

Peterson was first appointed to the NSB in 2008 by President George W. Bush. He has served as the chair of the Audit and Oversight Committee charged with ensuring that the NSF is properly evaluating and managing its operational risks.

The NSF is the policymaking body for the NSF and advises the president and Congress on science and engineering policy issues. The 24 board members serve six-year terms, are drawn primarily from universities and industry, and represent a variety of science and engineering disciplines. They are selected for their eminence in research, education, or public service.

Since assuming the role as president of Georgia Tech in 2009, Peterson has strengthened the Institute’s national leadership position in innovation, expanded strategic partnerships, and championed leadership in education and research. He also holds the position of professor of mechanical engineering.

Peterson has worked as a research scientist at NASA and at the NSF. In 2011, President Barack Obama appointed him to the Advanced Manufacturing Partnership (AMP) steering committee and, in September 2013, appointed him to the AMP 2.0 steering committee.

Tech Stays Strong in U.S. News Rankings

By the Numbers

FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

The Young Architects Forum Atlanta, a program of the Atlanta Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, presented Jennifer Bonner, assistant professor in the School of Architecture and director of Studio Bonner, with the 2014 Emerging Voices Award.

For the second year, the Georgia Tech Office of Undergraduate Admission was recognized as one of Atlanta’s Top 100 Best Places to Work by the Atlanta Business Chronicle. The department will be honored at a breakfast and featured in the Chronicle’s Sept. 12 issue.

Eric Gilbert, assistant professor in the School of Interactive Computing, was named a fellow in the Digital Ecologies Research Partnership, which explores how public data can be used for ethical academic inquiry into the social dynamics of online groups and websites.

The Office of Human Resources hosts a Be A Workshop about resources available at the Walmart Pharmacy in Tech Square at noon to 5 p.m., Student Center, Register at: c.gatech.edu/facwksp930

The Student Center Programs Council hosts Georgia Tech Night at Six Flags. Tickets for faculty and staff are available for $26. Purchase tickets at: c.gatech.edu/nightatsixflags

Teams of students participating in Startup House will build boats out of cardboard and duct tape and race them at the Startup House Regatta from 2–3:30 p.m. The local must hold two crew members while it makes its way across the Campus Recreation Center Pool. Free.

For a more comprehensive listing of events updated daily, visit calendar.gatech.edu
Alumni Honor Liotta’s Legacy with Endowment

The impact a college professor has on his or her students is difficult to measure, especially for students who graduated long before formalized course evaluations were adopted.

For alumni Rodney C. “Rocky” von Dullen, the impact that Professor Charles L. Liotta had on his college experience was profound.

“Professor Liotta was the most open, warm, and generous of professors I had at Georgia Tech,” said von Dullen. “He showed me that the road to success was not only about the engineering and the technology, but also about the people required to get the job done. He’s a people person who cares about his students, and he set an example that I’ve always tried to follow.”

In appreciation for Liotta’s tireless mentoring of thousands of Tech students and in celebration of his 50th anniversary as a faculty member, von Dullen and his wife, alumna Catherine Dowling von Dullen, will establish the Charles L. Liotta Faculty Endowment Fund, which will establish faculty appointments in the School of Chemistry and Biology that bear Liotta’s name.

Professor Liotta is widely revered among generations of Georgia Tech alumni, faculty, and staff. After earning a bachelor’s degree from Brooklyn College in 1959 and a doctorate from the University of Maryland in 1963, Liotta joined the Tech chemistry faculty in 1964 – also holding a joint appointment in the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering.

He has served as advisor to 81 doctoral students, 33 postdoctoral associates, and 25 master’s students; he currently serves as thesis advisor to five Ph.D. students.

In addition to his decades of service as a commuted teacher, leading research scientist, and devoted mentor, Liotta also served as chair of the School of Chemistry and Biochemistry, director of the Institute of Sustainable Technology and Development, and — at the Institute level — as vice provost for research and dean of graduate studies. In 2003, Professor Liotta was named an honorary alumnus by the Georgia Tech Alumni Association in honor of his lifetime of achievement on the campus.

“I am very honored that the von Dullens would hold me in such great favor,” Liotta said. “Through my entire career at Georgia Tech, I’ve always tried to put students first and to provide good advice for them, because I knew that whatever I experienced at Georgia Tech could affect their future professional lives.”

“As I look back over my career at Georgia Tech, one of the things I have always strived to do is to let students see the joy and excitement of discovery,” Liotta explained. “In the classroom, my subject matter is chemistry. Chemistry is exciting! My goal is to present the subject matter through my eyes. If students catch on to that excitement, they’ll both retain and enjoy what I am teaching. I have learned that if you’re not excited about what you’re teaching, the students will sense it, and this could prove to be a barrier to learning. I always try to remind myself that I am an important influence for the growth and maturation of my students. All professors should be aware of this. Most important — students should always come first.”

Charles Liotta, pictured with President G.P. “Bud” Peterson at a Georgia Tech Commencement ceremony, is revered among generations of Tech alumni as a dynamic teacher and caring mentor. Manuscripts Rocky von Dullen and his wife have established an endowment fund in his name for faculty positions in the School of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

### SAFETY

- **Compliance Certification and a Quality Enhancement Program (QEP) for Student Learning.**
- **CERP topic selected March 2014.**
- **Compliance Certification self-study submitted Sept. 10.**
- **QEP is due January 2015.**
- **SACSCOC visit to campus will be March 9-12, 2015.**
- **The self-study is nearly three times the length of the 2005 report because of new documentation requirements.**

### MISCELLANEOUS

- **Black over the oven microwave, $200.** Purchased for $350 + 2 years ago, 7 cu ft, Model # HMV1750DPBB. East Cobb. Picture available. Call 678-451-1300 or email cross4509@bellsouth.net.
- **Sprint cellphone for sale. Excellent condition, 2 months old, LG Q2, white. $150. Email ideeaa7498@yahoo.com.**
- **Spacious red leather sofa for sale, $450. In very good condition. Will deliver.** Call 404-385-2622.
- **Wicker loveseat and two chairs w/cushions, $75; four conference room chairs, $35 each; queen bedroom suite, $350; desk, $30; two bar stools, $15 each. Call 770-491-9512.**
- **Are you a Tech employee living in or near McDonough interested in participating in a carpool or vanpool? Email Jeff.Stieb@mt.gatech.edu.**
- **Brand new Asus RT-N68U g/b/g/n dual-band Wireless-N900. Retail for $130, sold for $100. Email Klarin09@yahoo.com.**
- **Furnished 3BR/2BA furnished waterfront cottage with private beach & sundock in Morehead City, NC. $1700/vk or $3200/ht. WiFi, AC, WD, hammocks, excellent fishing. Boat slip. No smoking or pets. www.vrbo.com/571644; jud.neady@gatech.edu.**
- **SACSCOC was 16 months in the making, and required the efforts of hundreds of individuals from all over campus. The 462-page report contains more than 2,500 Web links and references, and more than 1,200 PDFs and Excel documents.**
- **Preparing for the 2015 reaffirmation process.**
- **The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) for student learning is also part of the reaffirmation process. In March, Georgia Tech selected a QEP that 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 environments 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 co-authors of the QEP 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 plan will also help Tech operationalize its Strategic Plan vision and its mission.**

### CLASSIFIEDS

- **AUTOMOBILES**
- **REAL ESTATE/ROOMMATES**
- **MISCELLANEOUS**

### Get Prepared during Preparedness Month

- **September is National Preparedness Month, and the Office of Emergency Preparedness encourages everyone to take a few minutes to prepare for potential crisis. A few steps to take to be a more prepared member of the Tech community:**
  - Follow the Office of Emergency Preparedness on Facebook (fb.com/GETEmergency) and Twitter (Twitter.com/GTEPSafety).
  - Sign up for Georgia Tech Emergency Notification System (GETENS) alerts at passport.gatech.edu.
  - Register for Campus Emergency Response Team training. Training runs from Sept. 23 – Nov. 19. Email emergencypreparedness@gatech.edu for more information.
  - Download the “In Case of Crisis” app at c.gatech.edu/14h23m.
- **Always report suspicious activity to Georgia Tech Police at 404-894-2500.**

- **SACSCOC, from page 1:**
  - SACSCOC was 16 months in the making, and required the efforts of hundreds of individuals from all over campus.
  - The 462-page report contains more than 2,500 Web links and references, and more than 1,200 PDFs and Excel documents.

- **SACSCOC FACTS:**
  - Two main components: Compliance Certification and a Quality Enhancement Program (QEP) for Student Learning.
  - QEP topic selected March 2014.
  - Compliance Certification self-study submitted Sept. 10.
  - QEP is due January 2015.
  - SACSCOC visit to campus will be March 9-12, 2015.
  - The self-study is nearly three times the length of the 2005 report because of new documentation requirements.

- **SAFETY, from page 1:**
  - Improving the safety and well-being of our students, faculty, and staff on our campuses is both a concern and a priority,” said Hackley. “Looking ahead in the University System, as we work to be more student-focused in the academic performance of students, we have concluded that we must simultaneously sharpen our focus on campus safety and behavior.”
  - The group will look at polices and procedures including how campuses respond to and address sexual assault, requirements and compliance within campus law enforcement agencies, and accurate reporting pertaining to the federal Clery Act.
  - Undergraduate Student Government Association President Dillon Roswell will also serve on the committee.

### Community News

DAN TREADAWAY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

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 plan will also help Tech operationalize its Strategic Plan vision and its mission.