Police Seek Feedback in Campus Survey

The Georgia Tech Police Department (GTPD) works around the clock to protect the campus, but it wants to know how well the community thinks it’s doing.

GTPD is fielding a community survey over the next few weeks that will help its leadership evaluate the agency’s overall performance as well as citizen perceptions of officer attitudes and behaviors.

“We want to know what kind of job we’re doing,” said Captain Randy Barrone, head of GTPD’s administrative division. “We can’t assess ourselves on what people think of us.”

The survey takes about 10 to 15 minutes to complete and will be open through April 24. GTPD hopes to use the results to evaluate which areas of the agency need more work. 

CELEBRATING WOMEN

March has been a time for celebrating women with Women’s Awareness Month, but women have been celebrating on campus for decades.

Here, a group of female students wave their RAT Caps at new student orientation during the 1960s. The first women enrolled at Georgia Tech in 1952. Tech is now the No. 1 producer of women engineers in the country. Learn more about Tech’s Living History Program at www.c.gatech.edu/FSHL.

Klaus Gift Fuels Passion, Vision for Entrepreneurship among Students

The name Christopher W. Klaus, Class of 1996, is a familiar one at Georgia Tech. A signature building in the College of Computing bears his name, and, for the past 15 years, he has been deeply engaged in the life of the Institute in myriad ways.

That engagement now includes a new $1.1 million gift as part of a multimillion-dollar commitment to support the newly established Create-X, an initiative designed to enhance entrepreneurial confidence among Tech undergraduates. Create-X represents a new way of thinking about student entrepreneurship, where the X can be a new startup or social innovation.

It allows students to learn how to create and shape the future. Open to all undergraduates, it offers a multitude of courses and extracurricular experiences for students to learn how to launch their own business startups. Create-X will be part of the Center for Engineering and Technology Entrepreneurship, which was established more than a year ago to foster even more entrepreneurship for all Tech students.

“Campus startups, based on exciting engineering problems being solved, will create new jobs and opportunities that will have global impact,” Klaus said. “The startup innovation will now occur at the campus level, and not after graduation. It will grow the startup culture at Georgia Tech, and really make it unique and differentiate it among peer engineering schools.”

It is a visionary enterprise aimed at systematically nurturing entrepreneurial confidence as one of the signature attributes of Georgia Tech undergraduate students and graduates. The broader goal is to provide the knowledge, skills, abilities, and experiences that will give
PLANTING WHERE YOU’RE PLANTED

Students were invited to help Facilities staff plant new trees around the area of Tech Green this month. As they grow and mature, the trees will provide shade for future Tech students in this coveted green space in the center of campus.

Getting Familiar with FERPA: What Would You Say?

**Ferpa Quiz**

1. I claim my daughter on my income tax. Therefore, I have the right to know her grades and to discuss those grades with the faculty members who assigned them. 
   - a. True   b. False

2. I would like to make sure that my son actually received his degree in May. Since the degrees awarded information comes under Georgia Tech’s definition of directory information, you can release that information to me. 
   - a. True   b. False

3. My daughter says she has registered for summer classes and will remain in Atlanta for that reason. Since enrollment status is directory information, you can tell me that. 
   - a. True   b. False

4. My son received tentative honors at Commencement. I wish to know if final honors were awarded. Since this is public information, according to the directory information policy, I have a right to access it. 
   - a. True   b. False

5. My daughter’s academic performance has been a cause of concern in the past few terms. In order for me to help her plan for next year, I need to know her academic standing now that final grades are in. As a concerned parent, I have the right to know this information. 
   - a. True   b. False

6. I am responsible for paying my student’s education costs. Currently, he receives HOPE, but if something should change in his eligibility, it would be a financial burden on the family for which we would need a plan. Therefore, I have a right to view his grades so that I can gauge whether there might be a change in his eligibility. 
   - a. True   b. False

**Answers:**

1. b 2. a 3. a 4. a 5. b 6. b

Are you ready?

Take the true-false quiz below to gauge your readiness.

As you answer the questions, keep in mind that some of them may be intuitive, and may require follow-up questions before a full accurate answer could be given. For the purpose of this quiz, however, focus on the question as presented.

**Enterprises Risk Management**

**Mea Reini**

As the spring semester nears its end, grades are top of mind for students and parents alike. Final grades affect many critical aspects of a student’s academic standing — ranging from meeting prerequisites for upcoming classes to financial aid and graduation eligibility. The stakes are high.

Seeking information on their student’s grades, many anxious parents reach out to faculty and staff with questions related to student records.

Most of this information, however, is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). While the Office of the Registrar is typically the first line of defense for the onslaught of questions from anxious students and parents, anyone on campus can receive an inquiry and should be prepared to answer questions appropriately and in line with Georgia Tech policies.

Have you heard of FERPA?

Like any other university, Georgia Tech is governed by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) — a federal law that establishes guidelines for students’ right to privacy, and regulates how educational agencies and institutions — including Georgia Tech — handle student information.

FERPA allows students and parents the right to question and potentially challenge grades and financial aid decisions, as well as the right to access their academic records.

A student or their parent can request access to their records by mailing a letter to the Registrar or visiting the Counseling Center.

You can brush up on your FERPA knowledge in a free webinar on Thursday, April 9, sponsored by Georgia Tech’s Compliance Partners Group. The webinar, which will include an introduction by Registrar Reta Pikowsky explaining the application of FERPA at Tech, will provide high-level information about FERPA and insight into best practices.

How did you do?

If you need a little refresher, don’t fret. All faculty and staff, even those with years of experience, are encouraged to review the policy — especially how it’s specifically applied at Georgia Tech.

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Georgia Tech students the confidence to actively create their own future.

During the past several years, existing competitions, classes, and programs have changed Tech’s undergraduate culture significantly. But this initiative is an opportunity to provide a mentored pathway to nurture and transform the undergraduate experience. Institute leadership demonstrated early support for the initiative and provided initial funding for Startup Summer in 2014. A small group of faculty members from Electrical and Computer Engineering, the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering, and the George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering led the pilot program through an iterative period of refinement. In the coming months and years, it is intended to ultimately reach all undergraduate students. The program has already grown to four times its original size in just one year.

Create-X consists of faculty-led curricular and co-curricular learning opportunities that provide all undergraduates — regardless of major or career goals — with the skills, abilities, mentoring, and advising needed to enable them to pursue their ideas. A signature feature will be the Startup Co-op, where teams intern or co-op at their own startups with outside seed equity funding.

FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Michael Best, associate professor in the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs and College of Computing, will take a four-year leave of absence to assume the position of director of the newly formed United Nations University Institute on Computing and Society in Macau, China.

Alper Erturk, assistant professor in the George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering, was recently awarded the 2015 Alumni Award for Exceptional Student Teaching by the Georgia Tech Alumni Association.

Helena Mitchell, executive director of the Center for Advanced Communications Policy, has been appointed to serve on the newly formed Federal Communications Commission’s Disability Advisory Committee.

Lakshmi Sankar, Regents Professor and associate chair in the School of Aerospace Engineering, will receive Women in Engineering Teaching Excellence Award.

Marinly J. Smith, professor in the School of Aerospace Engineering, was chosen to receive the American Helicopter Society’s Technical Fellow Award, which recognizes those whose careers have improved the technical capabilities of the vertical flight industry.

Peter Swire, the Nancy J. and Lawrence P. Huang Professor of Law and Ethics in the Scheller College of Business, earned the 2015 Privacy Leadership Award from the International Association of Privacy Professionals for his continued commitment to tackling emerging privacy and security issues in public policy, academia, and industry.

Grady Tuell, associate lab director for the Electro-Optical Systems Laboratory in the Georgia Tech Research Institute, received the Georgia W. Goddard Award for exceptional achievement in optical or photonic instrumentation for aerospace, atmospheric science, or astronomy.

Adayabt Travay, associate professor and Jean Monnet Chair in the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs, was selected as chair of the European Union Studies Association (EUSA). The EUSA is the leading U.S.-based interdisciplinary association for scholars of the EU.

Six College of Engineering faculty received National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER Awards, the most prestigious NSF awards for junior faculty who exemplify outstanding research, excellent education, and the integration of education and research within the context of their organizations. The faculty honored were: Turgay Ayer (industrial and systems engineering), David Goldberg (industrial and systems engineering), Sebastian Pokutta (industrial and systems engineering), Julian Rimoli (aerospace engineering), Hua Wang (electrical and computer engineering), and Enlu Zhou (industrial and systems engineering).

The Georgia Tech Research Institute was named Employer of the Year by the Georgia Engineering Alliance.

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Building Teams and Classes

It’s All about the People

BRIGITTE ESPINET
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Office of Undergraduate Admission employees live by the mantra: “Stories, not statistics. People, not programs.” For the director of this unit, it’s always been about the people.

Rick Clark, has been at Tech for almost 12 years and says when he first got involved in undergraduate enrollment here, it was all about helping the students get into college and sharing what makes Tech great. Today, though, Clark, who is also chief of the Staff Council, says his focus in the “people” portion now includes his staff, which has grown to more than 30 employees.

Read on to learn more about the director of Undergraduate Admission, the man in charge of the “people” section now includes his staff, which has grown to more than 30 employees.

What path brought you to Tech?

I grew up in Georgia but went to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to study journalism. I was a tour guide there and helped out in admissions where I realized there was a good confluence of those skills I was studying: being able to write, public speak, and market.

After working in Admissions at The McCallie School in Tennessee and Wake Forest University in North Carolina, I ultimately returned to Atlanta when my wife [then fiancé] began her physical therapy degree at Georgia State University. During that time, I worked at Georgia State, utilizing alumni to recruit.

I then came to Tech to be in a more traditional setting where the focus is on recruiting full-time degree-seeking undergraduates from high school.

Describe an average day on the job?

Here, it’s not really what a day looks like but more about the year.

In the fall, we’re outward-facing. I travel to conferences and speak nationally about Tech and college admission in general. We also do a lot of presenting to visiting families.

But, we hibernate in winter. We’re reading applications and working in committee to make admission decisions. It’s very much a close-the-door-and-roll-up-your-sleeves-and-read situation.

In the next three or four weeks, though, we’ll host about 6,000 people. So, we go from being held up in committee, consuming way too much Coke and pizza, to being flooded with visitors.

The other role I play is year-round: building relationships across campus. I attempt to build relationships with all the Colleges, the Alumni Association, and so on. I try to help them understand how our processes work. Some will hear we’ve admitted over 8,000 students and think, ‘We can’t have a class this big,’ but we have to convey that we have to admit that many in order to yield a freshman class of 2,825. We also want them to know how they play a role in bringing in the best possible class — particularly by making themselves available to interested students.

What’s the most gratifying part of your job?

My staff. Lots of them are in their 20s, thinking about grad school and starting families while working. I want to support them in all aspects of their lives. So, I’m really proud that, for the past two years, our office has been named one of the “100 Best Places to Work in Atlanta” by The Atlanta Business Chronicle. It’s gratifying to know we’re being recognized for something I hold dear: a positive culture.

What do you want your employees to have come to mind when they think of your leadership style?

That I’m available to them. My job is to ensure they have the support to be successful. I work for them as much as they work for me.

Why did you get involved in the Staff Council?

Undergraduate Admission has always been a good place to work. But over the past few years, we’ve really been able to create a fun and successful team. We even have staff encouraging friends to work here. Through Staff Council, I’d like to share what has worked for us. I have a passion for helping people enjoy their work.

How do you find work/life balance?

I love spending time with my family. I enjoy and value exercising, and work’s obviously important to me, but I realized you can’t always do three perfectly every day. Last month, at the biter end of making admission decisions, I hadn’t even shaved!

I think balance is too much pressure if you try to measure it every day. Instead, determine whether you’re finding balance in general.

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focus and where they can provide additional training or development for their officers.

GTPD is required to conduct a community survey every three years to maintain certification through the prestigious Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), which it achieved in 2013. It has only been two years since the last survey; nevertheless, Barrone said the agency hopes to survey the community on an annual basis to continually learn how to better serve the campus.

With the help of the Office of Assessment, many students, faculty, and staff have received a direct invitation to complete the survey as part of a representative sample group. Everyone is invited and encouraged to complete the survey, through, at www.c.gatech.edu/gtpdsurvey. The survey records a login to avoid multiple submissions, but all responses are kept anonymous.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

VOICE, a joint effort between Health Promotion and the Women’s Resource Center that serves as Georgia Tech’s sexual violence prevention and response initiative, will host a series of events throughout the month of April for Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Faculty and staff are encouraged to wear teal ribbons on Wednesday, April 15, to show support for survivors of sexual assault. A screening of The Hunting Ground, an expose on college sexual assault, will also take place that day at 3 p.m. in the Student Center Theater. Faculty and staff also can support at the same time Back the Back the Night event on Monday, April 6, at 7 p.m. at the Kessler Campanile.

For a full list of events and ways to get involved, visit www.voice.gatech.edu

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