ASK AWAY

Where can I get a document notarized on campus?

The Student Center has multiple staff members who can provide notarization or a certified copy of a document free of charge. Stop by between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. and ask for Georgia Braxton, Laura Price, Jamie Simmons, or Austin Stewart at the information desk on the second floor.

Have a Tech-related question that you’d like answered? Email it to editor@comm.gatech.edu.

NEWS BRIEFS

Students Give $35,750 to Mental Health Initiatives

The annual Student Alumni Association Gift to Tech lets the student body vote on how to spend member donations. This year, the Counseling Center was chosen as the beneficiary.

Have a Tech-related question that you’d like answered? Email it to editor@comm.gatech.edu.

Tech Leaders Participate in Americas Summit

Among high-ranking officials from North America, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean, President G.P. "Bud" Peterson and Provost Rafael L. Bras represented Georgia Tech at the Summit’s first Forum of the Americas April 9-11. Tech served as an organizer for the Summit’s first Forum of University Presidents.

www.gtsaa.com

EBB Construction Nearly Complete

Private Fundraising Goal Met; Dedication Set for Fall

Momentum is building in dramatic fashion for support of the Engineered Biosystems Building (EBB), which is nearly complete. Following on the heels of an anonymous $8.5 million commitment made in the summer of 2014, an anonymous donor, along with Georgia Tech’s research and innovation partner in pediatrics — Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta — has made EBB a philanthropic success.

These three commitments to the $113 million project bring the facility’s private funding total to its Campaign goal of $35,750 to Mental Health Initiatives.

Nemhauser Honored with Class of 1934 Distinguished Professor Award

ISyE Professor Hits Home Run with Top Honor

George Nemhauser is widely considered to be one of the world’s top optimization researchers, and he has received the official recognition to match: He is the A. Russell Chandler III Chair and Institute Professor in the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISyE), recipient of the inaugural Khachiyan Prize for lifetime contributions to the field, and the only person to twice receive the Lanchester Prize for best publication in operations research. He is also the first sitting professor at Georgia Tech to be elected to the National Academy of Engineering. Now, he is receiving the Class of 1934 Distinguished Professor Award.

“Almost all the awards I have received have been from my profession,” Nemhauser said.

Task Force Suggests Changes to Academic Calendar

Modifications Would Be Phased in Over Two Years

Georgia Tech students could soon have more time to prepare for finals and an extra day off at Thanksgiving, thanks to proposed changes to the academic calendar.

A task force drafted a proposal in early January with five key recommendations for modifying Georgia Tech’s academic calendar. The group of students, faculty, and staff focused on changes that were based on recommendations made by previous committees and white papers; were in compliance with University System of Georgia (USG) policies; and did not significantly change the existing spring-summer-fall structure.

Per the proposal, starting in fall 2015, classes would not meet on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, giving students an additional day for their break. A change implemented as a pilot this spring will continue to stand, which eliminated finals being held during the last exam session on the Friday before Commencement to prevent finals overlapping with graduation festivities. Starting the next academic year, it was approved to extend the individual course withdrawal deadline by two weeks, allowing students more time to evaluate whether to drop a class.

In Spring 2016, the current Dead Week would be replaced with Final Instructional Class Days and Reading Periods. The new schedule would designate Monday and Tuesday of the penultimate week of the semester as Final Instructional Class Days, followed by a day and a half of reading period, and administering the first final on Thursday.

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**Campus News**

**Bohlander Ends Tenure as Faculty Secretary**

ROBERT NESMITH
GEORGIA TECH RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) Principal Research Scientist Ron Bohlander will retire from his role as Georgia Tech’s secretary of the faculty in April. Principal Research Associate Jeanne Balsam has been selected by the Faculty Senate and Georgia Tech President G.P. “Bud” Peterson as the new secretary.

The secretary of the faculty is appointed by Georgia Tech’s president, based upon the recommendation of the Faculty Senate body. The secretary’s official duties include keeping accurate minutes and records of the Faculty Senate meetings, posting the minutes of the Faculty Senate’s various committees, accepting Nominating Committee reports from the Faculty Executive Board, and conducting elections to fill faculty governance positions addressed by the Nominating Committee.

“One of the great things about Georgia Tech is the collegial atmosphere between the faculty and the administration,” said Bohlander, relating that such an atmosphere is not always prevalent at other institutions. “It really has allowed us to get things done in a much easier fashion.”

Balsam, who served on the Statutes Committee for more than five years, said she is thankful to be chosen for the position. As the chair of the Statutes Committee, she served on the Institute Policy Committee and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Compliance Committee.

“As a steward of the current Faculty Handbook, I have worked with different individuals and taskforces to achieve recommended changes to the Faculty Handbook,” Balsam said. “I value collaborative contributions and effective communications in assessing and recommending modifications to the faculty for consideration.”

In the past, Balsam recalls, Bohlander’s extensive institutional knowledge has served faculty governance well. Bohlander has served as secretary of the faculty since the fall of 2006.

“Ron has a wealth of knowledge about the functioning and history of the Institute, and I certainly understand the value that Ron has brought to the secretary of the faculty position,” Balsam said. “I have seen firsthand the support, campus knowledge and history, and guidance that he has provided to the Statutes Committee and look forward to being a part of his legacy of success.”

Bohlander has been at Georgia Tech for four presidents, starting with President Joseph M. Pettit, whom he credits with initiating the modern faculty governance for Georgia Tech in 1981 to help boost engagement among the faculty. By 1982, Bohlander was selected to join the Faculty Honors Committee.

“Since that point, I’ve been on a slew of different committees and then served for five or six years as chair of the Statutes Committee,” he said. “That led to the opportunity where I was invited to be secretary of the faculty, a position I’ve held for a little more than nine years now.”

One main accomplishment Bohlander recalls is his part in rewriting the Faculty Handbook. “We rewrote it twice, actually,” he said. “One we finished in April 2013 and one in April 2014.”

The first rewrite was to reduce 57 chapters to seven. The second rewrite had to do with the change in faculty governance bodies and the change in definitions of research and academic faculty. “We no longer have a General Faculty Assembly,” he said. “We now have a Research Faculty Senate and an Academic Faculty Senate, and the combination of the two is called the Faculty Senate.”

Additionally, Bohlander will retire with more than 36 years of experience with Georgia Tech’s Engineering Experiment Station — as GTRI was known when he was hired — taking with him a tremendous amount of institutional knowledge.

Bohlander’s last meeting in his official capacity was at the Faculty Executive Council meeting on April 9. Georgia Tech Executive Vice President for Research and GTRI Director Stephen Cross saluted his service at the end of the meeting.

“You began your service as secretary in 2000, and you were well-prepared for that, since you started on the Faculty Honors Committee back in 1982,” Cross said to Bohlander. “It’s an amazing length of service, and I’m most appreciative of how you have conducted yourself as secretary of the faculty. You will be greatly missed, not only for your institutional memory, but because you’re the conscience of the faculty.”

Cross closed the meeting with a motion that the minutes reflect Bohlander’s service as the secretary of the faculty.

“It’s been a huge pleasure and a labor of love,” Bohlander said. “I’m pleased that Jeanne is here to carry to the torch.”

GERMAN MINISTER TOURS TECH MANUFACTURING

Germany’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Frank-Walter Steinmeier recently visited Tech for an up-close look at the latest research in logistics and manufacturing. (Left) Steinmeier holds a 3-D printed ceramic core made using LAMP, a high-resolution additive manufacturing technology invented by Professor Suman Das (right), director of Georgia Tech’s Direct Digital Manufacturing Lab. The technology lowers the time required to turn a CAD design into a test-worthy part from a few days to about a week. (Right) Undergraduate Tim Fleck, from Dresden, Germany, takes a selfie with Steinmeier during his visit. Fleck, an intern at Tech’s Packaging Research Center, is studying electrical engineering at Germany’s Dresden University of Technology.
said. “This is the George Tech award. This means a lot to me because it connects directly to George Tech.”

The Class of 1934 Distinguished Professor Award recognizes outstanding achievement in teaching, research, and service. It is the highest award given to a faculty member. The award, instituted in 1984 by the Class of 1934 in observance of its 50th reunion, is presented to an active professor who has made significant, long-term contributions — contributions that would have brought widespread recognition to the professor, to his or her school, and to the Institute.

Letters of support for Nemhauser’s nomination came from colleagues and former students around the world. “My stimulation and the fact that I can still be working and having lots of fun — as old as I am — is because of what these people give to me,” said the 77-year-old. “I’m this great humanitarian, unshy guy by any means. It’s completely a two-way deal. When I get a chance to work with these young people, to me, that’s the greatest pleasure in life. That’s always been the best thing for me: to work one-on-one or with a small number of undergraduate and graduate students and young faculty. Those are the people who keep me on my toes.”

From Center Field to Operations Research

Growing up in New York, Nemhauser dreamed of playing center field for the Yankees. He estimated that by the time he was ready for the position, Joe DiMaggio would be retiring. That didn’t happen. He was a teen when DiMaggio retired, and Mickey Mantle took the position. “I played all sports — with lots of effort and very limited ability. I did not have talent,” Nemhauser laughed. “But I love math. I was the kid who could compute the other kids’ batting average. I wasn’t the best player, but if they wanted to know their batting average — see George.”

When it was time to head to college, Nemhauser was leaning toward majoring in math, but his mother encouraged him to study engineering. It was during a summer internship that he first learned about optimization and game theory, and he was fascinated. He started graduate school in chemical engineering, but switched to operations research as the field was just starting academically.

“I’ve never made long-term plans. I don’t believe in them. A one-year plan? That’s good.”

“Man, was I lucky,” he said. “Any success like this — honestly, so much of it is luck: being in the right place at the right time. I believe that 100 percent.”

What is Optimization?

“Optimization is about decision making. Whether it’s a problem in business or a problem related to health or medicine, the notion is: ‘How can we use optimization to make better decisions?’

“Most of these optimization problems have a huge number of variables and constraints. The contribution from our optimization group here at Georgia Tech — which, by the way is the best optimization group in the world, independent of me — is that we build the algorithms that allow [for] efficient computations for problems with thousands of variables.”

Nemhauser’s company, the Sports Scheduling Group, schedules games for the ACC, the SEC, the Big 10, and Major League Baseball. “Scheduling Major League Baseball is a big optimization problem. You have all of these games to schedule, and a lot of it is driven by television contracts, which is where the revenue comes from. If you don’t get the right games at the right time — that Saturday or Sunday afternoon game between the Yankees and the Red Sox — the contracts won’t be what they would be otherwise.”

Having Fun

“Having started teaching in 1961, Nemhauser has advised 65 doctoral students. Many of them are now on the faculty at MIT, Chicago, Northwestern, Carnegie Mellon, Berkeley, and other top universities around the world. One of the biggest changes he’s noticed over the past 54 years is that his dealings with graduate students is the interaction with them.

“I’ve always tried to eliminate formality. I hate formality. I’m very, very casual person,” he said. “When I started, there was no formality to get a graduate student to call me ‘George.’”

Nemhauser was honored with the Presidential Award for the Class of 1934. It includes a $25,000 gift from the Georgia Tech Business Network. This means a lot to me, he said. “I can keep my health and I’m having fun.”

“I’ve never made long-term plans. I don’t believe in them,” he said. “I’ve never had a five-year-plan in my whole life,” he said. “A one-year-plan? That’s good. My basic philosophy is: No. 1 — have fun in what you’re doing. That, to me, beats it all.”

Reginald Des Roches, the Karen and John Huff School Chair and Professor of the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, has been appointed to serve a three-year term on the National Research Council’s Board on Army Science and Technology.

David Hu, associate professor in the George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering, was awarded the Pineapple Science Prize for Physics for his research on “why mosquitoes survive hits by raindrops.” He was honored in a ceremony in China on April 11.

College of Engineering Dean Gary May was honored by President Barack Obama with selection for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentors. He will be honored at a White House ceremony later this year.

Kathy Tomakajo, associate dean of libraries and aerospace engineering librarian, was honored with Emory University’s J. Pollard Turman Alumni Service Award. The award includes a $25,000 gift from the Tull Charitable Foundation, which Tomakajo designated to the Emory Libraries and Emory Alumni Board Leadership Scholarship.

Rafael L. Bras, provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs, and Barry Goodno, professor in the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, have been named distinguished members of the American Society of Civil Engineers. This honor is the highest bestowed by the organization.
CALENDAR, from page 1
afternoon. Finals would be broken up by that weekend and resume Monday, with an additional reading period the next Tuesday morning. Finals would finish that Thursday, allowing Friday for conflict periods and a day between exams and Commencement.

"Adding reading periods before and during final exams week so students have more time to prepare is one of the most important changes we can make to our calendar," said Steven Girardot, associate vice provost for undergraduate education who co-chaired the Academic Calendar Task Force with Paul Kohl, vice provost for Enrollment Services.

When benchmarking against peers and other USG institutions, Georgia Tech was one of few universities that did not already have a reading period of this kind.

In many cases, Tech students were found to spend more time in class than at peer and USG institutions.

"The fact is that Georgia Tech students spend a lot of time in school," said Laura Margaret Burbach, vice president of Academic Affairs for the Student Government Association (SGA). Burbach participated in the academic calendar task force and helped draft a white paper last year from SGA on the topic.

For Burbach, getting the Wednesday before Thanksgiving is an immediate relief, but the changes to dead week and final exams will be the biggest change for campus.

"I hope it does a lot for alleviating student stress by incorporating additional study time, giving a true end to the semester, and letting students celebrate graduation," she said.

Beyond Next Year
The complete task force recommendations that would be phased into the calendar during the next two years include:

• Replace Dead Week with Final Instructional Class Days and Reading Periods and wrap final exams around a weekend. (Beginning spring 2016)
• Eliminate final exams on the Friday before Commencement. (Implemented as a pilot in spring 2015)
• Add additional class holidays around Thanksgiving and July 4. (Beginning fall 2015)
• Begin the spring semester no earlier than the second Monday of January. (Beginning Spring 2016)
• Modify class length and breaks (contingent on final approval). (Beginning fall 2017)

The final recommendation would extend the length of Monday/Wednesday/Friday classes during spring and fall semesters from 55 to 55 minutes. Breaks between classes would extend from 10 to 15 minutes. These extensions would ultimately mean the required number of instructional hours per USG policy, is met in fewer days, giving additional flexibility for holidays or breaks during the semester. This recommendation has been approved in principle but will get additional study and potentially final approval at a later date. If approved, the change would go into effect in fall 2017.

"Right now you get significantly less class time in a Monday/Wednesday/Friday class than in a Tuesday/Thursday/ Friday, so in more challenging courses, you get a lot more material in an instructional day in a Tuesday/ Thursday section," said Burbach.

"This would make them more comparable. The longer time in between classes would make it easier for students to get to class across campus."

The Process
The calendar changes have been approved by the Student Regulations Committee and will go before the full Faculty Senate for approval at its meeting on April 21.

Students have voiced concerns to Tech administrators about aspects of the academic calendar in recent years. The 2013 SGA white paper proposed three changes, two of which were delayed until this year:

• Delayed withdrawal period was changed in spring 2014
• New calendar was approved
• Spring 2015 started on a Tuesday/Thursday schedule

When benchmarking against peers and other USG institutions, Tech was found to have one of the shortest study periods. This year, Tech students were found to spend more time in class than at peer and USG institutions.

"Right now you get significantly less class time in a Monday/Wednesday/Friday class than in a Tuesday/Thursday/Friday class. So in more challenging courses, you get a lot more material in an instructional day in a Tuesday/Thursday section," said Burbach.

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