And they’re off! Associate Professor Mary Lynn Realff (right, second from front) steps out with Stamps President’s Scholars (SPS) for a wilderness trek in Montana last year. This year, she is going to Canada with another group of SPS students.

Outdoor Recreation Program Connects People to Nature — and One Another

MARGARET TATE
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Last summer, Outdoor Recreation Georgia Tech (ORGT) offered a number of Saturday morning hikes just for employees. More have been scheduled for this summer, but these aren’t the only ORGT opportunities for faculty and staff with a sense of adventure.

With the exception of some students-only expeditions, ORGT activities and resources are available to all members of the Georgia Tech community — alumni and sponsored guests included, said David Knobbe, assistant director of Outdoor Recreation at the Campus Recreation Center (CRC). “They just have to be bold enough to walk through the door.”

And he means that literally, since all transactions — whether it’s signing up for an adventure or renting equipment — must be done in person at what’s called the Wilderness Outpost, downstairs in the CRC.

Everybody Pulls Their Weight

Floor-to-ceiling shelves in the Wilderness Outpost hold everything from carabiners for rock climbing to wetsuits for whitewater kayaking, but the most valuable commodity in stock is expertise. Two full-time staff members — Knobbe and Outdoor Recreation Coordinator Matt Marcus — along with almost 200 trained student and alumni volunteers are at the ready to share knowledge and lead trips.

Knobbe sees a distinct Georgia Tech intensity in the volunteers’ commitment to providing “world-class experiences.”

“I like to say that what we do isn’t rocket science, but our volunteers tend to be rocket scientists, and that makes all the difference,” he said. “If anyone dares to use terms like club or fun, we push away from that. Our department’s true purpose is to help our student volunteers build leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills that complement their Georgia Tech degree.”

Trip options range from beginner to advanced.

Board of Regents Approves Curriculum Changes, Future Projects

KRISTEN BAILEY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

At its meeting in Atlanta on May 10, the Board of Regents (BOR) approved items related to Georgia Tech’s curriculum and upcoming campus infrastructure projects.

The BOR Committee on Academic Affairs approved changes to Tech’s Master of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering program. The program was modified to incorporate courses on entrepreneurship and non-technical issues that graduates may encounter in the workforce after graduation.

The Committee on Real Estate and Facilities approved Tech’s request for authorization of renovations to the Instructional Center on West Campus. The renovations will include new audio/visual technology; mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems; furnishings; and finishes. The project will be funded from institutional funds.

The Committee also approved the naming of the Donald M.
**EVENTS**

**TRAINING**

May 25-26

A workshop on Doing Sport History in the Digital Present will feature a diverse group of scholars interested in the historical study of sport and related realms including recreation, games, physical activity, and the moving body. The free workshop takes place both days in Room 102, Stephen C. Hall Building. [www.c.gatech.edu/sportshistory](http://www.c.gatech.edu/sportshistory)

**SEMINARS & LECTURES**

May 30

The Office of Information Technology hosts a free introduction to Python (programming language) class from 10 a.m. to noon in Room 325, Clough Commons. RSVP at [www.c.gatech.edu/python](http://www.c.gatech.edu/python)

June 1-2

The Techniques Symposium is a two-day scientific training event with seminars and hands-on workshops on laboratory techniques, software analysis, and scientific communication for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in bioengineering and bioece. The event takes place at the Petit Institute and U.A. Whitaker Building. [www.techniques.gatech.edu](http://www.techniques.gatech.edu)

June 3, 6, 8, 10

The Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning (CETL) hosts a four-part Course Design Studio, where faculty can focus on designing or re-designing a course with expert guidance from CETL consultants and input from campus colleagues. Each session takes place from 9 a.m. to noon. RSVP by June 1 at [www.c.gatech.edu/coursedesign](http://www.c.gatech.edu/coursedesign)

**STAMPS HEALTH SERVICES**

**Stamps Pharmacy Now Filling Employee Prescriptions**

CHRISTINE KAPORCH

HEALTH PROMOTION AND

STAMPS HEALTH SERVICES

The Stamps Health Services Pharmacy, located on Ferst Drive next to the Campus Recreation Center, now has the ability to process most prescription insurance, including BlueCross BlueShield, for faculty and staff.

The full list of accepted insurance plans can be found at [www.health.gatech.edu](http://www.health.gatech.edu). Automatic refills are available for maintenance medications. Patients can request prescription refills at the pharmacy during business hours, through the automated telephone refill system 24 hours a day (404-894-1300), or through the Stamps Health Services PocketRx smartphone app.

To transfer prescriptions from other pharmacies, patients will need the pharmacy’s phone number and the prescription number. Valid ID must be provided with all prescriptions and transfers. Payment is required at the time of service. The pharmacy accepts BuzzCard, American Express, MasterCard, Visa, and Discover; cash is not accepted.

The stock of prescription medications is still growing, so there may be delays with initial orders. Any medication that is not in stock can be ordered and ready for pickup by the next business day. The pharmacy also offers over-the-counter medications and consults.

Pharmacy hours during the summer are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday; and 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday.

During the academic year, hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday.

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

**Fair Labor Standards Act**

In collaboration with Institute leadership and the University System of Georgia, Georgia Tech Human Resources is working to develop an approach to new Fair Labor Standards Act federal regulatory changes. These changes would raise the minimum salary threshold required for an employee to be considered exempt from overtime from $23,660 annually to $47,476 annually. While the rule set was formally released May 18, Human Resources has been working for more than a year on how to ensure compliance with the proposed rule changes. To learn more about if and how these changes may affect you, visit [www.c.gatech.edu/fsla](http://www.c.gatech.edu/fsla)

**Buzzin’ Back to School**

The annual school supply drive for Georgia Tech families begins June 1. Human Resources has secured a few hundred backpacks to be filled with school supplies, which will be distributed to randomly selected Georgia Tech employees with children in grades K-12 who may not have the financial means to obtain the necessary supplies for school.

The Georgia Tech community is invited to donate supplies from a designated list. Employees are also invited to apply to receive a backpack. To learn more about donations and applications, visit [www.c.gatech.edu/backtoschool](http://www.c.gatech.edu/backtoschool)

**STAMPS HEALTH SERVICES**

**Student Center to Host Bowling League, Summer Movie Series**

KATE CURRY/

STUDENT CENTER

While many students are away, faculty and staff can play. Registration is now open for Tech’s first faculty/staff summer bowling league.

The league will run from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on June 6, 14, 21, and 28 in Tech Rec on the first floor of the Student Center. Participants can sign up as a team of four for $60 ($15/person). Registration includes shoe rental, but bowlers may also bring their own shoes.

Each league date will include three games — two standard games and one Baker Game, where bowlers rotate each frame. A league winner will be determined by points earned over the course of the four-week competition. The winner will earn a free bowling party for their office (up to 20 people, five lanes).

“We see this league as an opportunity for the campus community to interact in friendly competition, as well as meet members of the community they may not have otherwise,” said Teresa Weimann, associate program director for the Student Center. “Tech Rec serves a role for students in providing a place where they can gather, take a break from their busy day, and play — it can serve faculty and staff in that way as well.”

A full description of league play and rules is available at [www.c.gatech.edu/bowling](http://www.c.gatech.edu/bowling). Teams should register online by Wednesday, May 25.

The Student Center is also again partnering with Athletics for Dodd After Dark, an outdoor summer movie series. This summer will feature Zootopia on May 21 at Mewborn Field; Star Wars: The Force Awakens on July 8 at Bobby Dodd Stadium; and The Jungle Book on July 30 at Bobby Dodd Stadium.

View movie trailers and a list of what is and is not permitted at the venue at [www.c.gatech.edu/doddafterdark](http://www.c.gatech.edu/doddafterdark)

20 Years Later

Did you work at Georgia Tech during the 1996 Olympic Games, or do you have memories of attending?

Share them with us for a celebratory feature this summer by emailing editor@comm.gatech.edu.
and activities that call for some degree of know-how require a “pre-class” — training and orientation sessions that are typically scheduled for a weeknight before the trip and last from one to three hours, depending on the sport. “Participants meet the staff, learn fundamental skills, and basically get an understanding of what’s going to happen on the trip,” Knobbe said. “And yes, people must sign waivers and demonstrate some level of fitness for certain activities.” Prerequisite trips are required for some advanced excursions.

Knobbe stresses that many trips are not easy, nor are they designed to be. “This is not like, ‘We’re going to Six Flags and they’re going to take care of us,’” he said. “Everybody pulls their weight, and you really become part of that team that is together taking themselves.”

A Great Kind of Synergy

Sign-up for a trip typically starts 30 days out, and most trips fill up fast. Costs vary, but because a generous endowment from David D. Flanagan (a 1976 industrial engineering graduate) underwrites student participation, faculty and staff pay twice as much for trips and equipment rental, which is usually priced per excursion. Sometimes, all participants need are proper shoes and a brown-bag lunch, Knobbe said. ORGT takes care of the rest.

Although faculty and staff are welcome to participate in most trips, “relatively few” take advantage of these opportunities, Knobbe pointed out. Still, some expeditions in partnership with campus organizations deliberately seek out faculty and staff participation.

Last year, Associate Professor of Materials Science and Engineering Mary Lynn Reafl was invited to take her involvement with the Superior Student’s Scholarship to new heights by writing a faculty guide for an ORGT wilderness trek in Montana. She’d been a Girl Scout and was no stranger to local hiking trails, but this would be her first time “backpacking.”

“I practiced for a month before I went on this trip,” she said. She started with an empty backpack and gradually built up to the 35 pounds she knew she would be carrying.

She also attended several required meetings in advance of the trip but didn’t see the time commitment as a barrier to participation. “The barrier was more mental, being 50 years old and thinking, ‘I’m going to carry everything on my back for five days in the wilderness?’ A lot of people were surprised that I would even consider going to carry everything on my back for five days in the wilder- ness!” she said. “I think students learn immensely from having faculty and staff come away in the Georgia Tech community, especially students.”

Realff recommends that other faculty and staff give ORGT a try.

Would she do it again? “Absolutely,” she said. “I think I get a lot more out of it than I gave.”

Realff considers herself “pretty approachable,” but the wilder- ness setting gave her a way to interact with students that she had never experienced before. “There was time to really get to know each student,” she said. “And there were all these conversations, everything from singing tunes to deep conversations about what’s important in life, things like that — and having fun at the same time.”

Realff recommends that other faculty and staff give ORGT a try. “It doesn’t have to be five days in the wilderness,” she said. “You can try some of these smaller trips and see how wonderful it is.”

Knobbe agrees that ORGT is a great way to connect with others in the Georgia Tech community, especially students. “I think students learn immensely from having faculty and staff present,” he said. “In the same way that students see faculty in a different light — maybe a more human light — faculty come away with a greater appreciation for students, who they are, their ideas, and what they’re doing. It’s a great kind of synergy when we get them out in the field together.”

For more information, go to www.crc.gatech.edu/orgt or visit ORGT in person, 2 to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 2 to 5 p.m. on Fridays.

### ORGT By the Numbers (2015)

- 118 weekend adventure trips
- 14 expeditions (5 to 14 days)
- 200 student and alumni volunteers
- 180 participants in advanced-level trainings
- 110 Challenge Course groups (2,500 participants)
- 1,500 unique climbers at the CRC climbing wall
- 3,800 unique individuals served
- Around 10,000 individual experiences

### The Transfer Transition

**New Course Designed with Transfer Students in Mind**

**CORY HOPKINS**

**UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION**

By now, most of campus is familiar with GT 1000, the first-year seminar. But some may not know as much about GT 2000.

This course also provides support for new Georgia Tech students, but is designed specifically for those students who transfer to Tech from other colleges and universities. It was originally offered as a special topics course and has now been approved as a standard course offering.

Lacy Hodges, academic transition programs manager in the Center for Academic Enrichment, led the proposal of the course and helped it come to fruition. She talks about how and why this course was developed and how it may continue to evolve.

### How did GT 2000 start?

In 2013, the President’s Mental Health Task Force report, as part of a plan to reduce the stress level of students at Tech, recommended the creation of “a GT 1000 class for transfer students.” Building off of this, the Office of Undergraduate Education recognized that such a transition class would be beneficial to transfer students, but their unique needs meant it should exist separately from GT 1000, which really focuses on the needs of students who are new to the university environment. So GT 2813, a special topics class for transfer students, was created.

By Fall 2015, the demand for space in our GT 2813 classes was greater than our available space for enrollment, which helped us to see how much the incoming transfer students needed this class. After the success of GT 2813, Steven Girardot, associate vice provost for Undergraduate Education, approached me about turning the special class into a standard class.

### Why is this class so essential?

Georgia Tech has an amazing support system in place for its first-year students, and clearly recognizes how important the first semester is for retaining students and helping them to feel as though they’re part of the Georgia Tech community. Unfortunately, up until fairly recently, there hasn’t been a similar support structure in place for transfer students. Tech Research has shown that transfer students, especially transfer students to large research institutions, undergo “transfer shock” and tend to fall behind their peers during their first couple of semesters at their new institution.

Tech can be particularly challenging to new transfer students because of its rigorous academic pace. In order to ensure that our transfer students are successful both academically and personally, it’s essential that they are given the tools and support they need to transition smoothly to Tech.

### How do you see GT 2000 growing in the future?

In addition to GT 2000, there are transfer seminars offered by both departments. Both chemical and biomolecular engineering and electrical and computer engineering offer classes for transfer students to help better prepare them for the challenges of their coursework at Tech.

We’re hoping that GT 2000 can complement these classes and that we can expand GT 2000 course offerings so that other departments that would like to offer discipline-specific sections to their incoming transfer students can take advantage of our class and curriculum (much like our GT 1000 discipline-specific sections).
This project is now in the demolition stage and is planned for completion by Aug. 15, in time for the start of fall semester. To meet the strict opening deadline, project contractors are working 12-hour days, seven days a week. More information: www.cgatech.edu/bogggs.

Lettie Pate Whitehead Evans Administration Building (Tech Tower)
One of the first major construction projects on campus this year, the Tech Tower renovation includes upgrades to plumbing, electrical, and heating and cooling systems, as well as the addition of a second interior fire exit stairwell and a new elevator. This project is still on track for completion in late 2016. More information: www.cgatech.edu/towerreno.

West Campus Dining
Breaking ground this month, the West Campus Dining project will provide a new dining experience on the west side of campus at the corner of Eighth and McMillan Streets. Expected to be completed in the fall of 2017, this project will include several new dining options. In addition, this new construction will enable the implementation of several recommendations made during the recent Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Campus Assessment Plan.

Tech Green
Renovations to Tech Green should be completed by the end of June. To allow time for the grass to establish strong roots, though, the site will remain fenced and maintained by the contractor until Georgia Tech’s first home game on Sept. 10. More information: www.cgatech.edu/techgreen.

Atlantic Drive
The repair and replacement of underground steam lines, which began in March, continue along the southern portion of Atlantic Drive. Encountering very hard blue granite required an unexpected and ravenous rock excavation for two weeks at the end of the spring semester.

Streetscape and landscape improvements are expected to begin in early July. This is phase one of three planned phases. Additional construction to Atlantic Drive will take place in 2017 and 2018; these phases will address heating systems for the buildings in that area of campus. Buildings to be affected include the Petit Microelectronics Center, College of Computing, Mason Building, Sustainable Education Building, and Bunger-Henry Building.

More information: www.cgatech.edu/atlantic.

Coming Soon
Techwood Drive Pedestrian and Lighting Improvements
This project will improve safety and mobility for all users of Techwood Drive. Improvements made between North Avenue and Bobby Dodd Way will include sidewalk repairs and a new traffic signal at the intersection of Bobby Dodd Way. Work is expected to be complete by Aug. 11.

Ferst Drive Streetscape and Intersection Improvements
This project will undergo multiple improvements from State Street through the Hemphill Avenue intersection. The streetscape project along the south side of Ferst Drive will provide a wider sidewalk, new curbing and plantings, new LED outdoor lighting, and a new bus shelter on Hemphill Avenue. Parallel parking along the south side of the street will be removed.

This will be a phased project in order to keep vehicular and pedestrian traffic moving at all times. Some pedestrian traffic may be temporarily diverted to opposite sides of the roads during various phases. The five-month project will go through early November. When it is complete, the intersection should operate more efficiently for pedestrians and vehicles.

Additional construction to Atlantic Drive will take place in 2017 and 2018; these phases will address heating systems for the buildings in that area of campus. Buildings to be affected include the Petit Microelectronics Center, College of Computing, Mason Building, Sustainable Education Building, and Bunger-Henry Building.

More information: www.cgatech.edu/atlantic.

CONSTRUCTION, from page 1
Amazon@GeorgiaTech
Work is underway at the Amazon@GeorgiaTech pickup location on 10th Street, which was announced in March. Construction is scheduled to be complete in early July, with a soft open later that month. An official grand opening will take place at the end of August. More information: www.cgatech.edu/amazon.

Gilbert Hillhouse Boggs Building
The Gilbert Hillhouse Boggs (Chemistry) Building has undergone several phases of renovation construction in recent years. The latest renovation began in early May and will provide students and faculty with better learning environments by updating the instructional auditorium spaces. The goal is to support current and future learning approaches and pedagogies by providing more flexible learning space. Renovation of the lobby area will also provide non-classroom learning space and meeting space for student groups, as well as encourage student-faculty engagement outside of class. This is the first of three projects to renovate instructional space across campus.

BOR, from page 1
Gray House, the last unnamed building in the Fourth Street Apartments. Additionally, the Committee approved the demolition of the building at 490 10th Street. This demolition is part of Tech’s long-term Eco-Commons plan on North Campus and will eventually be the site of a new headquarter for the Georgia Tech Police Department, which will move up the hill from its current location at Hemphill Avenue and Ferst Drive. The Board also authorized the project and the appointment of Pond & Company in Norcross as the design firm. The Committee also approved a gift of property and ground lease for the Delta Chi fraternity, which plans to renovate and expand its house on Fifth Street. Additionally, both Jennifer Abrams, 2015-16 undergraduate Student Government Association (SGA) president, and Nagela Nakuna, 2016-17 SGA president, were recognized at the meeting for their service to the campus.

For more information about BOR proceedings, visit www.usg.edu/regsens.