Is Civil Political Discourse Dead?  
Professors Weigh in on What it Means to Be ‘PC’

VICTOR ROGERS
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

The 2016 presidential election is four months away. The candidates are not holding anything back, and neither are their supporters. A quick analysis of just about any political news story reveals name-calling, shouting, and accusations of too much “political correctness.” What does this say about today’s political climate?

“Like many people, I am dismayed by the quality of the political discourse in the current debate,” said Carol Colatrella, professor and associate dean for graduate studies, Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts. “I think that, many times, the candidates fall into the trap of wanting to express passion, enthusiasm, and fervor, and they do so in a way that really crosses a line in terms of being respectful of human values and political rights.”

Colatrella said that name-calling or personal attacks on someone’s appearance do not add value. “We should be debating ideas, plans, and expertise,” she said.

Brian Larson, assistant professor, School of Literature, Media, and Communication, elaborated on the concept of respect. “There is an extent to which we all owe each other respect,” Larson said. “When I say civility is an obligation or duty, I mean it is an ethical one, and arguably a moral one.”

“The obligation comes from the law, but from our ethical and moral systems.”

Changes in the Political Landscape

Colatrella said standards of common decorum have changed, but they’re always changing in culture, and they’re often linked to political issues. When teaching, she encourages students to express their ideas, but she asks them to be respectful of their classmates.

“If people have provocative ideas, that’s fine,” she said. “But there needs to be a certain sense of courtesy in listening to people and not just shutting people down. The term ‘politically correct’ is often flung at the Left as if liberals are imposing a strait-jacket on speech or ideas [when they disagree with conservatives].”

Another change is that many minority groups now feel empowered to speak up when they feel offended. “At different times and in different places, marginalized groups have had a very difficult time speaking out and have been repressed in certain ways, depending on the particular political system they were living under,”

see CIVILITY, page 2

Downing Named Enterprise Innovation Institute VP

PERALTE PAUL
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Following more than 25 years of work on campus, Chris Downing has been named vice president of the Enterprise Innovation Institute (EI).

The announcement follows a six-month national search.

As the Institute’s chief business outreach organization, EI is the nation’s largest and most comprehensive university-based program of business and industry assistance, technology commercialization, and economic development.

Downing will report directly to Stephen E. Cross, executive vice president for research. “I am thankful for this opportunity, and I remain focused on our core mission at EI to fulfill Georgia Tech’s commitment to economic development,” Downing said. “Working with the dedicated professionals at EI, we will enhance Georgia Tech’s work in designing the future through our service to entrepreneurs, businesses, researchers, innovators, and the people of Georgia.”

Downing had served as EI’s associate vice president since 2012 and as interim vice president since October 2015. He has been at Georgia Tech in his current role until then.

see SCIENCE, page 2

House Bill 792 Effective July 1

Passed during the 2016 session, this bill allows any person 18 or older to use an electroshock weapon on University System of Georgia (USG) campuses in self-defense. Georgia Tech Police will work with USG leadership as the change is implemented.

www.usg.edu

Provide Feedback on Midtown Neighborhood

The Midtown Alliance is asking for feedback from Midtown employees about subjects including transportation, safety, and shopping. Respondents could win a $25 Visa gift card.

c.gatech.edu/midtowndsurvey

IN THIS ISSUE
Two-Factor Authentication On the Way  2
Inaugural Leadership Development Fellows  3
Facilities Management Employs New Technology  4
Two-Factor Authentication Will Secure Data, Services

Beginning with the Office of Information Technology (OIT) in 2014, two-factor authentication started being implemented as an Institute-wide initiative aimed at protecting all Institute data and systems.

Supported by DUO Security, two-step authentication further secures the Georgia Tech network application data, intellectual property, and user accounts of students, faculty, staff, and researchers.

For more information, call 404-385-7061.

Two-factor authentication works, as one might expect, with two factors — something you know and something you have. For example, using a Tech application such as Buzzport currently requires a username and password (something you know). The second layer of security, the second factor, requires a user to provide a second authentication (something you have), usually in the form of a generated number from a phone application or key fob, to a login screen before gaining access to protected applications. Because the second authentication is independent from the username and password, if your password is stolen, the web application using two-factor authentication is safe from attempted hackers.

Currently, two-factor authentication will only be used on applications and systems that are web-based and require you to login via CAS (Central Authentication Service). The upgraded CAS service will continue to offer a first layer of security when you enter your username and password, but will now also support two-factor authentication when accessing Georgia Tech applications.

“We are living in a time where cyber attacks are the norm, and Georgia Tech is not immune,” said Rafael L. Bras, provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs. “In fact, we are subject to millions of attempted attacks each day.”

How Does it Work?

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“We have been using two-factor authorizations successively for months, and the additional step to log into secure sites is very much worth the additional peace of mind and added security,” said Bras. “The system being implemented across the Institute is the standard in many organizations, is easy to use, and works very well. The security of our data is a shared responsibility of all of us.”

OIT has added enhancements to the application, including self-service options in Passport which allow you to add a second device, print a series of codes for one-time use, see the status of your security using two-factor authentication from the CAS login screen, and add a trusted friend or colleague to help you access systems if you forget your second device. IT support professionals in each college will work with their units to implement the change.

“We’ve worked collaboratively across the organization to design processes and modify the existing DUO user interface in order to facilitate the deployment of two-factor authentication more effectively,” said Greg Phillips, associate director in OIT. “Working with our Technology Support Center, we’re focused on ensuring that all of our campus is well supported with this and other central technology services.”

Learn more at twofactor.oit.gatech.edu or security.gatech.edu.
This fall, the Office of the Provost is partnering with the Institute for Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ILE) and the Office of Graduate Education and Faculty Development to host the first cohort of the Emerging Leadership Development Program.

In May, interested individuals were invited to either self-nominate or nominate a colleague. Of the 62 applications received for the 2016-17 program year, Provost Rafael L. Bras, in consultation with an advisory committee, chose 16 participants from across colleges, schools, and experience levels. The field of participants has all attained tenure.

“Fostering and mentoring the qualities of good leadership is essential for our goal of institutional effectiveness and providing good stewardship of the present and future of the Institute,” said Bras. “Georgia Tech has an extraordinary pool of talented individuals who are willing and seeking opportunities to lead. This new program will help those individuals achieve the most of their potential.”

Beginning in September, the nine-month program will include monthly workshops, as well as a weekend workshop in late October. Other program activities will include small group work, self-assessments, and 360-degree assessments.

“The design of the program is to foster, mentor, and create a leadership climate among all stakeholders at Tech,” said Terry Blum, director of ILE. “The workshops will allow for intensive discussions and sharing of experiences, and will serve to spotlight leadership opportunities for individuals who are interested in being change agents for our larger community.”

Due to the high number of applications, many candidates were invited to apply to future planned cohorts. Nominations for the next cohort will begin in Spring 2017.

“We are very proud of the quality of applicants for the program in its first year,” said Susan Cozzens, provost for Graduate Education and Faculty Development. “Having so many good people step up is tremendously encouraging for the future of leadership here at Georgia Tech.”

Members of the 2016-17 cohort include:

- College of Computing
  - Beki Grinter, professor, Interactive Computing
  - Eric Vigoda, professor, Computer Science
  - Krista Walton, professor, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
  - Nishant Dass, associate professor, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
  - Adam Stulberg, professor, International Affairs

- College of Sciences
  - Deirdre Shoemaker, professor, Physics
  - Han Zhang, associate professor, Information Technology Management
  - Roberta Berry, associate professor, Public Policy
  - Jenny Singleton, professor, Psychology

- College of Engineering
  - Stephen Ruffin, professor, Aerospace Engineering
  - Christopher Jones, professor, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
  - Susan Burns, professor, Biomedical Engineering

- Scheller College of Business
  - Britny E. Schmidt, assistant professor in the School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, has been named to the board of directors of The Planetary Society.
  - Emmanouil M. (Manos) Tentzeris has been appointed as a Ken Byers Professor in the area of flexible electronics in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering.
  - Michael K. Damron, Esther Ezra Jennifer C. Hom, Amit R. Reddi, Simon N. Sponberg, and Kirsten G. Wickelgren, assistant professors in the College of Sciences, received National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development grants. CAREER awards are among the most prestigious for early career faculty members.
Facilities Management Leverages Technology to Save Resources

KAITLYN HOOVER

Facilities Management is known for pioneering sustainable approaches to campus operations through long-term and large-scale initiatives, such as Green Cleaning and Game Day Recycling, but the innovative projects don’t stop there.

Some sub-units have even incorporated sustainable alternatives into their everyday operations. Three separate initiatives in depart- ments within Operations and Maintenance have succeeded in saving more than 160,000 sheets of paper annually — or 19 trees per year — as well as thousands of dollars in ink and human capital.

In Building Services, eco-friendly cleaning practices earned this department recent Green Seal Certification. But other efforts have demonstrated that this eco-mindedness is truly pervasive. Operations Manager Willa Chatman brought one of her personal sustain- able practices to the workplace, proposing that all 12 custodial zones use flash drives to store drafts of annual reviews and other in-house documents such as employee vacation requests and custodial service forms.

“I’ve been storing my own documents this way since 2012, and I thought to myself, ‘Why don’t I bring this method into work?’ I want to encourage the rest of the Tech community to decrease the amount of paper they use,” Chatman said. “By implementing this approach, we have the power to save more trees — and eventually an entire forest.”

Printing documents is now considered a last resort for the department. As a result, paper usage has gone down from two cases of paper per month (and almost one case each week during the annual review season) to one case about every six weeks. Chatman hopes the use of paper-saving methods will continue to increase until the department is completely paperless.

Sonny Cody, foreperson for Georgia Tech’s Lock Shop, also wanted to reduce paper consumption within his office. He reached out to Facilities Information Technology Support’s Pat Ficenec to discuss how to incorporate technology into their day-to-day operations to do so. The collaboration led to the idea for two large wall-mounted display screens that would reduce the need for printing documents and keeping hardcopy records.

“Each Operations and Maintenance shop or area has different workflow processes and different technology needs, but it’s still possible to implement resource-efficient solutions that will produce immediate and long-term savings of valuable resources like paper and energy,” Ficenec said. After comparing the cost of printers, paper, and toner relative to the cost of procuring the energy-efficient monitors and a new computer, Cody found that the new technology, despite its initial cost, would save the department money in the long term as well as have a positive environmental impact. Once Ficenec and Cody received approval from their respective supervisors, the two put the plan into motion, setting a precedent for resource-efficiency efforts and cross-departmental collaboration.

The final paper-saving initiative sprouted from a desire to optimize operations in Building Maintenance by replacing outdated project-tracking methods. Organizing preven- tative maintenance updates and shop stock documents while ensuring all work orders are being completed in a timely manner is a difficult task using paper copies. The solution? A software program that provides a stream- lined system for organizing and distributing all data and documents. By deploying iPads to maintenance employees so they can take advantage of this application, the entire five-team Building Maintenance unit is now able to efficiently track all preventative mainte- nance, work orders, and other job requests in real time. The electronic database also allows technicians to reference maintenance manuals and updates quickly and easily while out in the field. The tracking system will save the department 76,000 sheets of paper annually.

Clockwise from Top) Locksmith Salam Al uses centralized software to track needs for Georgia Tech’s locks. Administrative Supervisor Cheryl Kelley and Maintenance Worker Juan Hunt review ongoing operations through the Technology Enhanced Maintenance System (TEMS), a program designed to meet the specific needs of operations and maintenance departments. Maintenance Worker Keino King uses an iPad to document maintenance work at the Ford ES&T Building. The software lets users look up information about the equipment they are working on at any given time.

Editor’s Note: Please consider extending the life of your copy of The Whistle by recycling it or passing it on to a friend who would like to learn more about working at Georgia Tech.

Facilities Management Leverages Technology to Save Resources

Autowares, Inc.

2002 Toyota Avalon XLS. Gray with gray interior, 165K miles. Second owner, excellent condition. Well- maintained, maintenance records available for review. $5,395 OBO Contact Dinesh at dianram@mes-inc.net

2004 Kia Sedona minivan. White, 128K miles, 6-cylinder engine, automatic. Good condition. Second owner. $3,500. Contact Ruby at rudy_hochender@yahoo.com

REAL ESTATE

Lovely garden apartment in Ansley Park. 2BR/1BA (1,050 sq ft) with parking, 2 mi. from Tech near bus/ train lines. Across from Piedmont Park and Atlanta Botanical Garden. Available Sept. 1. $1,600/mo, but negotiable. Contact 537hinpad@sbcglobal.net.

Looking for working professional, graduate student, or visiting professor to share large, furnished Buckhead condo, conveniently close to Tech campus. $750/mo includes utilities, cable, internet. Private bedroom, bath. Have leased to Tech Ph.D. student; also Tech graduate/Delta employee. Available Aug. 5. Very clean and private. References on request. Contact 404-514-7662, nba.dann@gmail.com.

For rent: 2BR/1.5BA house in East Cobb/ Marietta, Johnson Ferry and Post Oak Trl. Road. Fully furnished, sunroom, enclosed patio, garage, pool. Lease service provided. $1,800/mo. Includes DirecTV and Netflex. Contact Sandra Shippeard, 770-364-3692.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Georgia Tech Research Institute’s Human Systems Engineering lab is looking for maps (for a one-time study). Study involves the use of tools that require a level of activity equal to yard work. Study will take approximately one hour. Participants will be compensated $10. Contact 404-407-7948 or androma.foster@ghi.gatech.edu.

For sale: Shaker mission style Storahouse desk. Dark wood finish, 5x 2.5’, pull-out tray under desk for keyboard or supplies, good condition. $250 firm. Text 404-790-9831 for photos.

For sale: Used 2008 GRTA Xpressell Bus 31 Day Pass for Blue Route, normally $125 ($115 through Georgia Tech payroll deduction), will sell for $75. Text 404-592-4192 or email plrown694@gatech.edu.

For sale: Exercise elliptical trainer. Four months old, excellent condition. Fully assembled. $125 or best offer. Call 678-481-8170.

For sale: 3-piece full size bedroom set (bed, side table, 5-drawer dresser), cream-colored and painted wood. Excellent condition, $600. Antique oak desk/dresser set (1920s) $1,000. Upholstered chair, $150. Maple armoire with red and green staining highlights, $100. Text 770-576-0704 for photos.

Ads run for at least three issues in the order in which they are received. Submit your 35-word-or-less ad to email to editor@comm.gatech.edu.

AUTOBWNES

Cart study involves the use of tools that require a level of activity equal to yard work. Study will take approximately one hour. Participants will be compensated $10. Contact 404-407-7948 or androma.foster@ghi.gatech.edu.

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