Tech Launches Campus Wellness Initiative

Kristen Bailey
Institute Communications

With the mindset of taking a more holistic and inclusive approach to campus wellness, Georgia Tech will soon add a Center of Community Health and Wellbeing to its operations.

The center will be overseen by a newly created staff position. The director of Community Health and Wellbeing will be charged with overseeing existing entities and building out the new program.

“While we already have many strong and effective programs that currently serve as valuable resources, a campuswide wellness initiative will allow us to maximize our efforts,” said Randy Barrone, captain of Georgia Tech Police Department (GTPD) - sworn officers. “GTPD deploys some of the most sophisticated technology and training methods in the country to protect our community and trained to help ensure the community’s safety.”

“GTPD deploys some of the most sophisticated technology and training methods in the country to protect our community members,” said Randy Barrone, captain of GTPD's administrative division. “We have found that building awareness of what we do on campus - in the city - is a key component to that.”

Staying Power: Tech Makes Student Retention, Graduation Top Priorities

Margaret Tate
Institute Communications

Every Georgia Tech student who stays and graduates is a success story. These days, Tech is taking new and innovative steps to make sure there are even more of them.

These efforts are part of the University System of Georgia's Complete College Georgia (CCG) initiative, launched in 2011 as an offshoot of the Complete College America program. The program, as its name implies, hopes to ensure that students who get into college also get out — the right way.

Many of Georgia Tech's retention and persistence programs have been in place for years, taking the Institute's first-to-second-year retention rate from 85 percent in 1993 to 96 percent in 2013. The Institute's six-year graduation rate has risen from 69 percent to 90 percent.

Leda L. and Jack J. Zbar have directed a $9 million testamentary commitment to areas of Tech that are close to their hearts, including faculty support and student support directed to two schools and unrestricted support for the Institute.

The last of these, the Leda L. and Jack J. Zbar, a 1956 Tech graduate, leader in the chemical manufacturing and textile industries, and visionary supporter of Georgia Tech, has made a commitment that will have an impact on the Institute for years to come.

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SEMINARS & LECTURES

Jan. 23
Faculty members John Tone, Kim Isbell, and Yan Wang present at a free panel on diversity in collaboration in Liberal Arts, Science, and Technology. The panel will address “Health and Society,” from 1 to 3:30 p.m. in Room 102, Stephen C. Hall. Lunch will be served. RSVP at c.gatech.edu/UCLASTPanel

Jan. 26
The School of History, Technology, and Society presents Jonathan Schneer, a professor in HTS, as part of its spring speaker series. Schneer will discuss “Ministers at War: Churchill’s War Cabinet” from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in Room 104, Old Civil Engineering Building. hts.gatech.edu

Jan. 29
Seymour Goodman, professor of International Affairs and Computing, addresses Privacy in the Digital Age as part of the Great Decisions Foreign Policy Lecture Series, at 7:30 p.m. at Dunwoody United Methodist Church. The cost is $5 per lecture or $35 to attend eight-week series.
gcvl.org/programs/gd/dunwoody

Feb. 4
The IMPACT Speaker Series hosts Scott Jenkins, general manager of the new Atlanta Falcons stadium, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in the LeCraw Auditorium, Scheller College of Business. scheller.gatech.edu/impact

Feb. 4
The Georgia Tech Library hosts a session on publishing research, from 2 to 3 p.m. in the Kaiser Room, Library. This session covers finding journals in your research area, determining how to select the best one to submit your article to, and how to find that journal’s author guidelines. Pre-registration is available, but not required, at c.gatech.edu/wheretopublish

Events continued on page 3

ZBAR, from page 1
Jack J. Zbar Endowment Fund, will one day provide significant resources for Georgia Tech — resources that will be deployed strategically by the president to meet pressing, immediate needs and to respond to opportunities as they arise in any given academic year. In appreciation for the Zbars’ generosity, the Institute will name the Sixth Street Apartments-East the Jack J. and Leda L. Zbar Residence Hall.

“Georgia Tech gave me the foundation to be successful in everything that I have done since I left,” said Zbar. “It gave me the knowledge, the confidence, and the ability.” The Zbars have also been strategic in committing future funding to support the Schools of Chemistry and Biochemical Engineering (ChBE) and Materials Science and Engineering (MSE). Through a series of charitable remainder unitrusses, one day their philanthropy will establish the Leda L. and Jack J. Zbar Chairs in ChBE and MSE, the Leda L. and Jack J. Zbar Scholarship Endowment Funds for students with demonstrated financial need in both schools, and will also fund faculty enrichment endowments in each.

“My profession is, and has been, a chemical engineer,” said Zbar, a native of Tampa, Florida. “But I also got my start producing, developing, and utilizing chemicals for a textile manufacturer for a few years, so both of these schools are important to me.” Indeed, that experience led him to found his own company, Arrow Engineering, in 1970 in Dalton, Georgia. For decades, the company has specialized in providing technologically advanced chemicals for the textile industry, servicing the carpet industry as well as the cotton, woolen, polyester, and denim markets. It has been a leader in carpet protection technology, using recycled materials in a variety of patented products. In 2004, Zbar sold Arrow Engineering after almost 53 years of success at the helm.

Naresh Thadhani, professor and school chair in MSE, called the Zbar commitments transformative.

“They will help make us the model programs that will define the future of our discipline,” he said. “They will allow us to recruit and retain those individuals who are poised to make the next scientific breakthroughs that will advance technologies and enable future generations of students to reach new heights with a Georgia Tech education.”

Zbar echoed those sentiments.

“To continue being the school that it is, Georgia Tech needs the best people — the best faculty and the best students — that money can buy. That really is the bottom line.”

He is happy to be in a position to give back and credits his wife for encouraging him.

“Leda has been so instrumental in developing my philanthropic thinking. Her parents were of modest means, but they always found a way to give to others. She taught me how important that is.”

For many years Jack and Leda Zbar have provided vital scholarship support in the former School of Polymer, Textile, and Fiber Engineering (now part of MSE), and provided unrestricted current operations support through Roll Call for 28 consecutive years.

In addition, Zbar served on the Textile and Fiber Engineering Advisory Board and his 40th Reunion Committee. In 1996 he was named a College of Engineering Distinguished Alumnus, and in 2003 he was elected to the Engineering Hall of Fame.

The Sixth Street Apartments-East will be named for the Zbars. This housing facility on West Campus provides apartment-style housing for undergraduates.

WELLNESS, from page 1
resources to provide more comprehensive programs,” said President G.P. “Bud” Peterson. The new director will have responsibility for the Campus Recreation Center, Stamps Health Services, Health Promotion, and the Extension Program and report to Paul Strouts, vice president of Campus Services. Health Promotion is expected to include four focus areas: prevention communications; prevention information and policy; prevention training and development; and strategic programs such as sexual violence prevention, alcohol and drug prevention, mental health, and other Institute-wide priorities.

A full-time victim advocate, who will be part of Health Promotion, will also be hired to support sexual violence prevention and response. Victim advocacy is currently provided by VOICE, the campus sexual violence prevention initiative.

The idea for a campus wellness initiative was included in recommendations from the Mental Health Task Force as well as the Sexual Violence Task Force with the hope of providing more centralized services and information to the campus community. The idea was also evaluated by Tech’s Office of Strategic Consulting.

“We are grateful for the members of both the Mental Health and Sexual Violence task forces for their work during the past year that provided a solid base for needed changes,” Peterson said. The establishment of the center, hiring of its director, and hiring of a victim advocate address three recommendations issued by the two task forces.

For now, operations and support services remain the same. Students can seek guidance and assistance from Stamps Health Services, Stamps Health Promotion, the Counseling Center, and the Women’s Resource Center. A counselor and victim advocate are on call 24/7 at 404-894-2575.

2015 Marks 130 Years Since Tech’s Beginning

MARILYN SOMERS
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

In 1882, a 36-year-old lawyer and member of the Georgia House of Representatives from Macon, Nathaniel Harris, introduced legislation to build a technical school in Georgia.

Harris introduced the legislation upon the urging of the owner of the Macon newspaper, John Fletcher Hanson.

Harris was a veteran of the Civil War, on the side of the South, having joined the fray when he was just 16 years old. After the war, he returned to his alma mater, the University of Georgia. He graduated in 1870 and served an apprenticeship to practice law, a profession he began in 1873 in Macon.

In those days, the General Assembly met in the Kimball Opera House, having officially moved from Milledgeville to Atlanta in 1870. Harris, newly elected to the House, raised the idea of a state-funded technical school. A committee to investigate the concept was formed, and Harris was named chair. In 1883, the committee turned in its report, and the bill went up for a vote and failed. In 1884, the vote was closer, but the bill still failed. Harris persevered and, in 1885, the bill finally passed, and Nathaniel Harris became the “father of Georgia Tech.”

Harris would go on to have a brilliant career in Georgia politics and is credited with the following quote: “The founding of the Georgia School of Technology 1 regard as the most important event of a public nature that occurred in my life.”

Learn more about Georgia Tech’s history at history.gatech.edu.
**ATDC, Holland Plant Top Legislative List**

CASEY AULTMAN
GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The 2015 legislative session began Jan. 12, and Georgia Tech's Office of Government and Community Relations is focused on conveying Tech's legislative priorities to Georgia's leaders.

"Among our top priorities this year is securing $1.9 million to expand our startup incubator, ATDC," said Dene Sheheane, vice president of Government and Community Relations. "This funding would enable us to build out existing space and staff to support new companies in clean energy, nanotechnology, and advanced computing. By capitalizing on strong momentum and expertise in entrepreneurship at Tech, we would be helping create more companies and more jobs in Georgia."

Sheheane and his colleagues will also advocate to:

- Secure $5 million for the modernization and expansion of the Holland Plant. This upgrade would provide additional capacity to provide air conditioning to 75 of Tech's 200 buildings on campus, including the Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons, the Campus Recreation Center, and several residence halls and academic buildings.
- Strengthen support for Georgia Tech's "B-Units." The "B" budget supports non-academic economic development programs. This funding maintains Tech's ability to leverage state funds and attract significant external funding through the Enterprise Innovation Institute and Georgia Tech Research Institute.
- Together with the University System of Georgia (USG), the Georgia Tech team will also work to secure important budgetary items:
  - $44.4 million in new Formula Funds to be shared among all USG institutions. Funding supports critical day-to-day operations and is essential to maintaining academic quality.
  - $60 million in Major Repair and Rehabilitation Funds to repair aging facilities across the USG. Georgia Tech's allocation will be directed toward more than $100 million in deferred maintenance needs.
- "Georgia Tech has consistently benefited from strong support from the state," said Sheheane. "Last year, we received planning funds for the renewal of the Georgia Tech Library, which will be moving forward over the next year. "We are fortunate that Georgia has the seventh highest appropriation for higher education in the nation," he added. To demonstrate their appreciation for ongoing support from state lawmakers, the Tech community convened for the annual Georgia Tech Student Day at the Capitol on Jan. 13. During the legislative session, the Office of Government and Community Relations shares information with its Capitol Jackets advocacy network, which includes alumni and partners on campus, through a biweekly newsletter. To learn more or sign up, visit govt.gatech.edu.

**Funding for the Advanced Technology Development Center, housed in the Centergy Building in Tech Square, is among Tech's top priorities for the 2015 legislative session.**

**POLICE, from page 1**

**ACTIVITY**

**ACTIVITY**

**ACTIVITY**

**ACTIVITY**

Actually do as a police department is a great way to connect to those we protect.

The Citizens Police Academy, a community-based policing initiative, develops stronger ties between GTPD and the community by helping community members better understand police work in the area. Community-based policing has proven effective and continues to be a vital tool in preventing and controlling crime in the Tech community.

"I was amazed by the experience and level of sophistication demonstrated by all the presenters, many of whom are Georgia Tech graduates," said Mia Reini, director of Enterprise Risk Management and past participant in the Academy. "I really learned a lot from the hands-on demonstrations and have a much better appreciation for all that these dedicated officers do in the course of their day."

This spring, GTPD will conduct its third Citizens Police Academy class and is inviting the campus community to participate. The classes are limited to 12 attendees, and slots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Each session lasts about three hours, with nine sessions during the month of April. Topics covered will include:

- Department overview and mission
- Crime prevention
- Patrol and police standards
- Firearms and use of force
- Investigations
- Law enforcement use of technology
- Active shooter preparedness and mobile field force
- Special events and K9
- Emergency preparedness

Learn more at police.gatech.edu/academy, or contact Officer Brian Bonus at brian.bonus@police.gatech.edu.

**Sting Hunger Now**

Sting Hunger Now, a student-led effort, packages meals for persons in need to benefit Stop Hunger Now International Hunger Relief. The goal is to package 150,000 meals for children and families in developing countries and crisis situations. Learn more at stinghungernow.wix.com/hunger

**Men's Basketball**

Men's Basketball faces Boston College at 1 p.m. in McCamish Pavilion. ramblinwreck.com
THE WHISTLE

Degree Terminations, Facility Progress Approved by Regents
KRISTEN RAILLY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Four degree programs and two construction projects were addressed at the Board of Regents (BOR) meeting at Georgia State University on Jan. 6.

The phased-out masters degree programs of the School of Polymer, Textile, and Fiber Engineering, which folded into Materials Science and Engineering in 2010, were terminated. Students are no longer matriculating through these programs, so there is no effect on current students or faculty.

Mark Braunstein, professor of the practice in the School of Interactive Computing and associate director of the Health Systems Institute, was named to the 2013 University System of Georgia (USG) Total Rewards Steering Committee, which advises the USG on health care plan design and strategy.

President G. P. "Bud" Peterson presented on the development of the High Performance Computing Center, which will soon begin the process of selecting a developer. The BOR also authorized Tech's West Campus Dining Commons project, which will enter the next phase of design and construction. The target date for completion is August 2017.

This facility will provide seating for around 610, as well as a lounge and study space.

CCG, from page 1

in 1993 to 82 percent in 2013 — one of the highest in the state. The closer Tech gets to 100 percent, the harder it is to move the needle; still, Tech's CCG steering committee has been working with the campus community to phase in a number of actions and interventions that promise to further close the gap.

"It would be easy for Georgia Tech to write up a report every year of things we're already doing and tracking, but we're investing a lot of new resources into CCG," said Steven Girardot, associate provost for Undergraduate Education and co-chair of the committee with Sandi Brambleti, executive director of Institutional Research and Planning. "We think it's important for every student we admit to have the resources to be successful."

In November, the committee released a CCG progress report for the 2013-14 academic year, outlining key accomplishments and strategies for moving forward.

Ramping Up Resources

Of the many factors that may stand between a student and graduation, the big three appear to be fit, finances, and grades. But which students are affected by which factors, and why, and what can be done to help them? These questions now land on the desk of Georgia Tech's new retention and graduation coordinator.

"Committees come and go," Girardot said, "so we really wanted to make sure there was some permanence and longevity behind the infrastructure we're creating around retention, persistence, and graduation."

Debbie Pearson, formerly a co-op program coordinator with Tech's Center for Career Discovery and Development, moved into the new position in April 2014.

"We're coming at CCG from a risk modeling approach, where we're identifying students with risk attributes and recommending appropriate resources," Pearson said. "We're also looking at impact modeling — observing which programs impact large numbers of students and have high correlations with student success and graduation rates."

Pearson's leaving no stone unturned to help student populations that are traditionally underserved and underrepresented in postsecondary education, and she even calls students who have left of their own accord to find out why.

These surveys have been done in the past, Brambleti said, but Pearson is making them more robust and systematic. "That's what's really good about this," she added. "We can identify trends and find out what we can with.

Making It Mandatory

Of course, given Tech's CCG's rigor, the committee does not need a survey to tell them that academic performance is the No. 1 reason students don't make it to graduation. Because of this, the Center for Academic Success (CAS) has developed a new required course for students who return from academic dismissal — GT 2100: Seminar for Academic Success.

Fiona Bramlet, associate director of the CAS since July, said she can't take credit for initiating the course, but she has been involved as a facilitator. One aspect of GT 2100 that distinguishes it from similar courses at other universities is mandatory academic coaching.

"Students meet in a class setting but they also get help individually," Bramlet said. "The coaching piece makes it hard for them to avoid dealing with what their specific issue is."

There's also a push to get more students into academic coaching before they run into trouble.

"I say at FASET (orientation), we wouldn't have all these services and programs, we wouldn't have the Clough (Undergraduate Learning Commons), if our students didn't need to take advantage of these resources," Girardot said. "I show them the statistics of their entering class, and their SATs and average GPAs are as nearly close to perfect as you can get, yet the successful students are the ones who use these services proactively."

Faster Forward

Fortunately, helping students maintain their grades is a one-two punch that also knocks out many financial issues, since students who perform well get to keep their scholarships and financial aid.

Regardless of grades, however, many types of aid time out in four years, so Tech's CCG plan also includes strategies like expanding the number of online undergraduate courses offered in the summer to reduce time to degree completion.

"That's definitely one area of focus," Pearson said. "Shrink the time to graduation, save tuition dollars, and get students into the workforce faster."

Even so, as a research from the Office of Institutional Research and Planning bears out, there are some good reasons why it often takes the Tech student more than four years to graduate — co-curricular reasons such as internships, co-ops, study abroad, and undergraduate research.

"Our students get here and realize they can do all these really cool things," Brambleti said. "And it helps them in the job market, it helps them develop skill sets they're going to need if they're going to graduate school. So there are some good reasons why it takes a while to graduate, and there are some not-so-good reasons."

Statistically, students who participate in co-curricular programs have better grades and are more likely to graduate, even if it does take them longer. The key thing is that they do graduate.

"I think student engagement is at the heart of all our goals and strategies," Pearson said. "You get the student engaged, you help the student learn how to persevere, how to network, how to make use of all the resources at Georgia Tech, and that student's going to be successful."

COMPLETE COLLEGE GEORGIA
A copy of the 2013-14 Complete College Georgia Update Report can be found at www.irp.gatech.edu/publications/complete-college-georgia-plan.

MISCELLANEOUS

China hutch and dining room table with 6 chairs and extra leaf. Light in color. $500 for both. Email swillis@gatech.edu for photos.

Items for sale: Gibson china dinnerware, 4 place settings (plate, bowl, saucer, cup), white w/ floral pattern, $60. Color Stone by NIKKO dinnerware set, white w/ yellow edges, 4 place settings, $25. 2 potholder tea pots by Kirk Stieff, $75 each. Kirk Stieff polished pewter tea set set, sugar, creamer, $150. Sewing machine table w/ insert (small), $40. Sony DVD player w/ remote control, $10. Panasonic VHS Player w/ remote control, $5. Queen bedroom set - oak headboard, 2 nightstands, chest, dresser w/ side shelves, mirror, $125. Queen matress set, $50. Casual dinnerware set, floral pattern, includes 12 dinner plates, 12 salad plates, 11 cups, 12 saucers, $30. Sewing fabric, 1-2 yards each piece, wool, silk, lace, $60. Contact 678-992-9142, kleeudith@gmail.com.

Par of vintage Bose 301 Series II bookshelf speakers and Onkyo receiver. All in good condition. $240 OBO. Email ndarke@hotmail.com for photo.

Thorlabs Laser Safety Barrier BLB808. Bought for a personal project and never used. 1 year old. $1,300 new, will sell for $600. Email suzanne.bock@gatech.edu.

ASP black wood bedroom set. King bed, $250. Two 3-drawer nightstand, $250. 2-drawer shelves, mirror, $250. All in great condition. Contact 404-788-5293.

A copy of the 2013-14 Complete College Georgia Update Report can be found at www.irp.gatech.edu.