President Addresses Crowd of Nearly 10,000

Obama Gives Tech Kudos on Multiple Fronts

President Barack Obama gave shout-outs to George P. Burdell, the Ramblin’ Wreck, and even thermodynamics homework when he came to Georgia Tech on March 10 to announce his Student Aid Bill of Rights.

“It’s great to be at one of the finest technical institutes in the world,” Obama said. “You’ve got to be if the Ramblin’ Wreck is still running after all these years.”

The president spent about 30 minutes encouraging students in the pursuit of higher education and talking about ways he hopes to make it more affordable and accessible. He also asked for support from the crowd for a new declaration of values he called the Student Aid Bill of Rights.

“It was really relevant because I’m applying to medical school for next year. I didn’t have to take out loans for my undergrad, but I’m going to have to take them out for grad school,” said Deeti Pithadia, a biochemistry major.

President Obama encouraged students to keep up their long nights studying complex material, as he believes higher education is the best investment they can make in themselves — particularly at Georgia Tech.

Peterson Extends ‘Thank You’ to Georgia Tech Community

While there had been a long wait outside and within McCamish, the crowd was patient and courteous. More than 200 student volunteers from various organizations assisted with ushering, line movement, parking, shuttles, and crowd control outside. The Georgia Tech band played for about two hours prior to the program to help
Anonymous Scholarship Donor Honors Student Affairs Employee

STACY BRAUKMAN
OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT

An anonymous donor has established the J. Denise Johnson Marshall Scholarship Endowment Fund to honor a woman who has given more than a decade of service to Georgia Tech. The endowment, which will support a Tech Promise Scholarship, will be doubled as a result of the Tech Promise Challenge.

Marshall is assistant dean and director of Disability Services in the Division of Student Affairs. She leads a staff offering support and resources to students with disabilities — intellectual and physical, temporary and permanent. Staff members serve as full-time advocates for students with disabilities to ensure physical and programmatic access to the Georgia Tech campus, and a Georgia Tech education, accessible and inclusive.

It is the intention of the anonymous donor that, through this scholarship endowment, Marshall’s record of achievement and leadership in this vital arena will serve as an inspiration to future generations of students, faculty, and staff at Tech.

Marshall, who holds a master of education from Western Kentucky University, came to Georgia Tech in 2002.

“Thank you does not seem to be enough to adequately express how I feel knowing that students will have an opportunity to reach their goals and achieve their fullest potential,” said Marshall. “It is my hope that the recipients of Tech Promise can one day pay it forward to others who need the opportunity, and I cannot think of a better place to develop and explore the possibilities for tomorrow than Georgia Tech.”

When the Whistle Blows

Nothing can replace the joy that a loved one or cherished friend brings to our lives. The Georgia Tech community is always deeply saddened when we suffer the loss of members of our own community.

Each spring, we honor the memory of the students, faculty, and staff members who passed away in the previous year. Join us as we pay tribute to these individuals who have touched our lives and contributed to our community.

Blow on, stern Monarch of Tech’s mighty crew,
Be always firm and staid;
To your compelling call we’ll e’er be true
Till each his part has played. — A.D.A.

Takes from “A Tribute to the Whistle,” as printed in the 1914 Blueprint, Georgia Tech’s yearbook.

Date: Thursday, April 2, 2015
Time: 5:15 p.m.
Location: Kessler Campanile
Welcome: Ms. Georgia Tech
Speaker: President G.P. “Bud” Peterson
Honored Guests: Family and Friends of the Decased
Rain Location: Student Center Theater

Saamer Akhshabi
Doctoral Student
College of Computing

John Carrigan
Undergraduate Student
College of Engineering

Adrienne Harrington
Principal Research Engineer
Georgia Tech Research Institute

Yolanda Harvey
Curatorial Facilitator

Siddartha Kahali
Undergraduate Student
College of Computing

Stanley Lindsey
Academic Professional
Georgia Tech Professional乙烯

Mary Mack
Master’s Student
Innovations & Entrepreneurship

Daniel Mitchell
Undergraduate Student
Scheller College of Business

Edward Rowe
Master’s Student
Scheller College of Business

Sandra Slaughter
Professor
Scheller College of Business

Michael Stillman
Assistant Professor
College of Computing

Robert Thompson
Building Services Inspector

Marison Turner
Custodian

Toby Turner
RS Office

Martin Wahl
Maintenance Worker

Peter Wallace
Senior Research Associate

Bryan Ward
Undergraduate Student
College of Engineering

When the Whistle Blows

GEOFFREY TECH’S REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

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Editor: Kristen Bailey
Photos: Bob Felt or Fitrah Hamid, unless noted

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Archived issues of The Whistle can be accessed at www.whistle.gatech.edu.

Georgia Tech is a unit of the University System of Georgia

Georgia Tech Institute Communications
Wardlaw Center
177 North Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0181

THE WHISTLE • March 16, 2015 • PAGE 2
“It’s been established time and time again that Georgia Tech is one of the best bargains around,” he said. “You’re getting a great education for a great value.”

He also praised Tech for its collaboration with the White House on promoting advanced manufacturing, unlocking the mysteries of the brain, and helping more students become entrepreneurs.

He commended Georgia Tech for introducing an innovative way to increase value and use technology to expand access to higher education through the launch of the Online Master of Science in Computer Science program.

In addition, he gave special recognition to Georgia Tech’s own President G.P. “Bud” Peterson, whose name was met with raucous applause.

“You’ve got a high approval rating,” Obama said. For more coverage of the president’s visit to Georgia Tech, visit www.c.gatech.edu/obama2015 and www.c.gatech.edu/obama.

**THANKS**, from page 1

entertain. Our welcome was trademark Georgia Tech, with Jake Mesner outside with the Rabblin’ Wreck, Miss Georgia and business administration major Maggie Bridges singing the national anthem, and aerospace engineering major Tiffany Davis introducing President Obama.

When Georgia Tech was approached by the White House to possibly host President Obama for a speech on higher education, we were honored. It was a huge undertaking, but well worth it. Our staff, faculty, and students pitched in to do whatever it took to make the event a success. This included Athletics, Catering, the Campus Recreation Center, Emergency Preparedness, Environmental Health and Safety, Facilities, the Georgia Tech Police Department, Parking and Transportation Services, Government and Community Relations, Institute Communications, the Office of Information Technology, Student Affairs, student groups, the Student Center, as well as volunteers from almost all departments.

We received a number of compliments from the White House staff about the outstanding job the Georgia Tech team did in making this event a success. It provided yet another opportunity to give national attention to Georgia Tech, including our outstanding students, faculty, staff, and programs.

I was a little disappointed that George P. Burdell was not able to introduce President Obama, but I am fairly certain he attended, as it was one of the great events in Georgia Tech history.

In my six years serving as Georgia Tech’s president, I have many memories. The way you represented Georgia Tech was outstanding, and it will be a lasting memory for the entire community.

**AT&T Gives $2M to Online Master in Computer Science Program**

**STACY BRAUKMAN**

**INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS**

For the second time in less than two years, AT&T is providing philanthropic support for Georgia Tech’s online master’s program in computer science within the College of Computing.

The Online Master of Science in Computer Science (OMSCS) remains the only program in the world offered by an accredited university that delivers course content entirely through the massive online format and for a greatly discounted price.

The OMSCS program expands access not only through its online delivery model but also its cost of less than $7,000 for the entire program, versus on-campus tuition of about $21,000 (in-state) and $45,000 (out-of-state) per year for the same degree.

“We are tremendously grateful to AT&T’s recognition that the OMSCS program is succeeding beyond anyone’s expectations,” said Rafael L. Bras, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs.

Currently, the program offers 13 courses to be applied across nine specialization areas (including a newly added specialization in information security). At full scale, the curriculum will consist of at least 25 courses. “AT&T’s support will put the program on a solid financial footing and help grow the curriculum to full size,” said Zvi Galil, dean and John P. Imlay Jr. Chair of the College of Computing.

Because enrollment is not limited to physical capacity, Georgia Tech’s goal has been to admit all qualified OMSCS applicants. The program, which has been made possible through collaboration with the online education startup Udacity, has drawn 5,442 applicants and has admitted 3,035 of them (55.8 percent).

Of AT&T’s $2 million gift, $1.9 million will support the OMSCS program. The remaining $100,000 will be directed to Georgia Tech’s new Center for Business Analytics within the Scheller College of Business.

**EVENTS**

**March 27**

The Center for Advanced Communications Policy hosts a luncheon event on “Next Generation 911: Location Accuracy, IP Transition and PSAPs, Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities, and other 911-Related Issues,” from noon to 1:30 p.m. in Room 119, Georgia Tech Research Institute. RSVP to jackie@cap.gatech.edu by March 25.

**TRAINING**

**March 24**

The Women of Georgia Tech Employee Resource Group hosts a session on Developing a Personal Strategic Plan with Sandi Bramblatt, executive director of Institutional Research and Planning/Decision Support Services, from noon to 1 p.m. in Room 319, Student Center. Register at trains.gatech.edu.

**March 25**

Workplace Learning and Professional Development hosts a free session on “Conflict Management: An Exercise in Enriching Relationships” from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Room 149, Global Learning Center. Register online at trains.gatech.edu.

**March 31**

The Georgia Tech Library hosts a free class on Tips and Tricks in Adobe Photoshop CS5 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in the Homer Rice Center, Library. Register to attend at c.gatech.edu/photoshop.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**March 25**

The Tech Talks Final Round will host six finalists who will deliver a seven-minute speech on their passion in science, followed by two minutes of questioning from the audience, from 8 to 9 p.m. in the LaCree Auditorium, Scheller College of Business. techtalks.gatech.edu.

**April 1**

Six student teams compete at the final round of the Georgia Tech InVenture Prize competition, which will also air live on Georgia Public Broadcasting, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Fertl Center for the Arts. Tickets are free but advance registration is encouraged. inventureprize.gatech.edu.

**April 2**

The Energy Club at Georgia Tech, in partnership with the American Energy Society, hosts the free Energy Expo from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom. This conference and showcase will highlight the changing energy landscape in the Southeast. Learn more and register at energexpo.gatech.edu.

For a more comprehensive listing of events updated daily, visit calendar.gatech.edu.
Campus News

NEWS BRIEFS

Staff Council Seeks Committee Volunteers

The Staff Council is seeking volunteers from all staff on campus to serve on a number of committees. Staff must have worked at Tech for six months as of March 31, 2015, and be able to serve about three to five hours per month. The deadline to sign up is March 27. Learn more and sign up at www.staffcouncil.gatech.edu

Employers Must Confirm Understanding of Ethics, Conflict of Interest Policies

Each year, Georgia Tech employees are required to affirm their understanding of ethical standards and the conflict of interest policy, and certify all external activities and financial relationships. This year, all faculty, staff, and student employees must do both by April 3. Access the confirmation link at www.techworks.gatech.edu

Coach Undergraduates as Leadership Fellow

The Office of Leadership Education and Development is recruiting faculty and staff to serve as Leadership Fellows. Fellows serve as coaches for undergraduate students and also have the chance to sharpen their own leadership skills. The application deadline has been recently extended to Monday, March 23. Learn more and apply at www.leadership.gatech.edu

Learn Best Practices, New Strategies at CETL Teaching Day

AMELIA PAVLIK
GRADUATE EDUCATION AND FACULTY AFFAIRS

Learning from others’ experiences and about their innovations — that’s why Matt Baker registered for the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning’s (CETL) Celebrating Teaching Day. “I want to show the rest of the campus that the School of Math is commited to excellence in teaching,” said Baker, a professor in the School of Mathematics. “Hopefully I will also pick up some useful tips and ideas that I can share with my colleagues.”

This year’s event will be held on Thursday, March 26, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom and will begin with a poster session featuring research-based teaching initiatives that are underway on campus.

The Center for Research on Learning and Teaching (CRTL) Players from the University of Michigan will perform during lunch. The players are a touring company that create interactive performances centered around current issues in higher education. “CETL invited the CRTL Players to perform and engage participants in a discussion about some of the common challenges we face in teaching,” said Esther Jordan, CETL’s assistant director for programming. “We hope that experiencing the performance will draw the issues to life and prompt a highly engaging dialogue.”

Register for the Celebrating Teaching Day festivities at www.c.gatech.edu/teachingday2015.

In addition to the morning program, a Teaching Enrichment Workshop will be held from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the Peachtree Room, Student Center Commons. The workshop will focus on disrespect and disruption in the classroom.

“CETL chose the topic for the afternoon workshop based on an increase over the last year in requests for help we have received from educators regarding disrespectful and disruptive behavior by students in classes,” said Jordan. “We do not infer that from this behavior is on the rise. However, it is clear that faculty are increasingly seeking ideas regarding how to respond to such behavior.”

The workshop will be conducted by Theresa Braun Schneider, assistant director and co-coordinator for diversity initiatives for the CRTL at the University of Michigan. It will focus on specific research-based strategies for setting up and maintaining respectful classroom and will provide opportunities to practice these approaches. Register for the workshop at www.c.gatech.edu/disrespectworkshop.

Construction Comes to Center of Campus

The renovations of Harrison Square and Hinman Courtyard, beginning March 16, will provide ecologival improvements and more open spaces to unify the Georgia Tech campus.

Both plaza renovation projects will focus on enhancing pedestrian and bicyclist mobility, for instance. By eliminating curbs and gutters, pedestrians and bicyclists will be able to move easily through the corridors. Improved lighting, brick pavers, and re-grading of Harrison Square will also allow clear access east of Cherry Street and improve connectivity between Tech Tower and Harrison Square.

“As these rejuvenated spaces come back online, the campus will continue to transform into a more pedestrian-friendly, sustainable, well-connected place,” said Frank Lamia associate director of Construction Services. The positive environmental impacts, such as stormwater management and tree canopy preservation, that these projects will generate align with Tech’s Campus Landscape Master Plan and its recent PGMS Landscape Accreditation. Additionally, failing trees will be replaced with the same type of tree, providing shade for pedestrians, improving water permeability, and helping to mitigate the heat island effect.

The Harrison Square improvements along Cherry Street will be around the Corolls Pump gathering area, and the soon-to-be Hinman Courtyard will be located behind the Old Civil Engineering Building. These renovations should be ready for fall semester 2015.

For more information, visit www.facilities.gatech.edu.

Clough Kicks Off Hyatt Lecture Series

Georgia Tech President Emeritus Wayne Clough will talk about engineers’ responsibility to plan for climate change in the first-ever Hyatt Distinguished Alumni Leadership Lecture. It will take place on March 24 at 4:30 p.m. in his namesake building, the Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons.

The Kenneth Hyatt Distinguished Alumni Leadership Speaker Series brings distinguished alumni leaders to campus who can share wisdom and insight with School of Civil and Environmental Engineering students and the wider Georgia Tech community. Learn more and register to attend the Clough lecture at www.cc.gatech.edu/hyatt.

G. Wayne Clough

Lakefront vacation home rental on spectacular Lake Chatuge in the mountains of North Georgia. Features 3BR/2BA, dock, game room, cable deck on spacious 4+ acres with great mountain and lake views. Details at www.vrbo.com/571844; just ready@gatech.edu.

Seeking male roommate for 1BR in furnished, 3BR/2BA apartment with kitchen and LR. In Virginia Highland near 10th and Morrison. $700/mo not including utilities. Contact casicolene@msnc.com or 404-892-7802.

German student seeking room (5-6 miles) from Tech or March 1 to 1 of August. Non-smoker. Contact thomas.huebmann@web.de.

Seeking working professional, grad student, or visiting professor to share large, furnished Bishaud condo, conveniently close to Tech campus. $725/mo includes utilities and cable/Internet. Private bedroom, bath. Contact laurajamie1234@gmail.com. Available May 1, Contact 404-514-7662 or reba.darr@gmail.com.

Award-winning, architect-designed 3BR/3BA beach house in Seagrove Beach, Florida. 3-minute walk to beach; 2 pools; 2 tennis courts; 4 bikes; 4 microwave, oven, refrigerator. Details at www.vrbo.com/581301.

AUTOMOBILES


For sale: 1996 SS Impala,18,072 miles. Black, new tires, new battery, custom logo floor mats, one owner, always garaged, showroom condition. $18,500. Email mary.montgomery@bixie.gatech.edu.

REAL ESTATE/ROOMMATES

FOR LEASE

Classifieds run for at least three issues in the order in which they are received. Submit your 3-word or less ad to editor@comm.gatech.edu.

MISCELLANEOUS

Items for sale: 3-seat ivory color. Rooms to Go couch, one year old, very comfortable, $300. OBO. Area Lank side tables, 3, for $15. Ikea black chairs, 3 for $12. Black Ikea desk table $10. Ikea Paring amish $25. 26” Flat screen Sanyo TV, antenna, DVD player, and stand in excellent condition, $44. Assorted clean, smoke-free, pet-free house. Email globroty@gmail.com for more info and photos.


Pair of microfiber sofas in a rich shade of espresso, $300 (both). Dining room table w 6 chairs, $300. Email toouchie4@bixie.com for photo.

THE WHISTLE • March 16, 2015 • PAGE 4