

The WHISTLE

Continuing Education thrives despite increasingly stiff competition

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Driven by increasing numbers of students of nontraditional age seeking ways to continually upgrade their skills without interrupting their careers, Continuing Education (increasingly known as Lifelong Learning) is fast becoming a major player in higher education.

The \$60 billion per year business is growing rapidly, both at traditional non-profit universities and at a growing number of for-profit enterprises. As more institutions join the hunt for Continuing Education students, Joe DiGregorio, Georgia Tech's vice provost for Continuing Education, Distance Learning and Outreach, believes Tech's programs will have to stay on their toes to compete effectively.

In a presentation at the February 6 joint meeting of the General Faculty Assembly and the Academic Senate, DiGregorio said that Lifelong Learning will become more mainstream as it plays an increasingly strategic role in workforce and economic development.

Happily, Georgia Tech's Continuing Education programs have performed well for a number of years. In Fiscal Year 2000, Continuing Education at Tech took in gross income of \$12.4 million (a 19 percent increase), offered 858 short courses (a 12 percent increase), and attracted more than 16,000

participants (a 12 percent increase). In addition, revenues transferred to Tech colleges and other units offering short courses have grown from less than \$2 million in FY 1993 to more than \$5 million in FY 2000, representing an average annual increase of 19 percent.

While these numbers paint a fairly rosy picture, DiGregorio cautioned that focused efforts

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—JOE DIGREGORIO

will be required to keep Tech's programs strong and competitive. “It is very expensive to produce online programming,” he said. “So we will be looking at the possibility of establishing appropriate collaborations and partnerships with other institutions.”

DiGregorio said Continuing Education is fortunate in the area of facilities needs because the planned Technology Square project at Fifth and Spring streets will include a state-of-the-art Global Learning Center to house Continuing Education activities. The Center will consolidate courses that are now spread out among as many as 18 local hotels.

In addition to increasing enrollment and income and controlling expenses, DiGregorio said Continuing Education will focus on developing more courses in computer-related software and services, high-tech manufacturing, bioengineering/bioinformatics, human-computer interaction, nanotechnologies, and broadband technologies.

More information on Georgia Tech's Continuing Education efforts is available at www.conted.gatech.edu.

Following the presentation, the Academic Senate heard a second reading of proposed changes to sections of the Faculty Handbook dealing with the reappointment, promotion and tenure process. The changes address the following topics:

- Specifying a deadline for communicating to candidates the schedule for consideration of their case;
- Specifying the outcomes of the review process;
- Clarifying what happens if a third-year critical review involves reappointment with warning;
- Adding a new paragraph to deal with leaves of absence;
- Specifying the feedback mechanism to the candidate;
- Clarifying what happens if a faculty member does not meet deadlines;

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Provost search committee planning final interviews

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Following a nationwide search, the Provost search committee has recommended a final group of candidates for on-campus interviews, which will begin this week. From the more than 40 applications submitted, nine were selected for initial interviews. Those interviews have yielded four finalists.

The finalists are:

- Jean-Lou Chameau, the current dean in the College of Engineering at Tech and Georgia Research Alliance chair in environmental technology. Prior to that, he served as Tech's vice provost for research

and dean of graduate studies. His tenure at Tech was interrupted briefly while Chameau served as president of Golder Associates, a privately held, global network of earth engineering and environmental consultants. He has been the chair of Civil and Environmental Engineering for the Institute. He spent 11 years as an engineering professor at Purdue University. Chameau received his doctorate in Earthquake Engineering and his master's degree in Geotechnical Engineering at Stanford University. His professional memberships include the American Society of Civil Engineers and the American Society of Engineering Education.- Duncan Moore, a former dean of the College of Engineering and

Applied Sciences at the University of Rochester. Since 1997, Moore has been working as an associate director for technology in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. He is also the founder and former president of Gradient Lens Corporation, a privately held company involved in optical design and manufacturing. He received both his doctoral and master's degrees in Optics from the University of Rochester. Moore was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 1998, cited “for the design and fabrication of optical systems and imaging lenses.”

- Elisabeth Paté-Cornell, professor and chair of the Department of Management Science and

Engineering at Stanford University. She is currently involved both at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory as a member of the Mars Program Architecture Study Team and at the Department of Defense as a member of the Science and Technology Review Group and the Space Panel. She received both her doctoral degree in Engineering Economic Systems and her master's degree in Operations Research at Stanford University. Her election to the National Academy of Engineering in 1995 was “for contributions to the field of engineering risk management, enabling effective inclusion of technical, economic, and

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Benefits office announces final numbers

Though the recent open enrollment at Georgia Tech was by far the most challenging ever, the Office of Human Resources has released final numbers related to the reorganization of employees' health insurance plans.

"Several important factors contributed to our successful transition into the new programs," Chuck Donbaugh, associate vice president of human resources, said. "We held 18 town hall meetings which were attended by more than 1,100 employees and retirees. In addition, almost 800 employees attended the annual Benefits Fair."

First, two healthcare plans were discontinued. Prudential carried 809 members, and United HealthCare served 454 members. Each of these 1,363 Georgia Tech employees and retirees had to choose a new health

insurance carrier. At the same time, two new plans were offered. One, MRN GaFirst, is a new Preferred Provider Option (PPO), and the other, BlueChoice, provides consumers with a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO). Only two programs remained unchanged — the Blue Cross/Blue Shield indemnity plan and the Kaiser Permanente HMO.

As the accompanying graph indicates, a total of 942 people moved to the new BlueChoice HMO plan during open enrollment. Another 573 people chose the new Preferred Provider Option. In addition, the Office of Human Resources added consumer choice options, implemented a new pharmacy benefit management program, and rolled out several new programs under the Indemnity medical plan, including a new nurse advice line and a new pre-certification

program for outpatient procedures.

With premiums that jumped 40 percent from last year, it was no surprise that BlueCross/BlueShield lost membership. Specifically, 592 employees — or 22 percent of membership — left the plan. The new PPO plan, MRN GaFirst, gained 573 members. Kaiser Permanente acquired 217 new members.

Look for additional changes in the future, including expansion of the new PPO to provide national coverage and perhaps several new voluntary insurance offerings. The office has also indicated that employees should anticipate the Board of Regents continuing with its requirement for all faculty and staff to re-enroll annually, even those planning no changes to their vendor or health insurance plan.

Benefit	December 2000	January 2001	Difference
Blue Cross/Blue Shield	2,728	2,136	-592
BlueChoice	0	942	942
BlueChoice CC	0	3	3
Kaiser Permanente	1,150	1,367	217
Kaiser Permanente CC	0	0	0
PPO	0	573	573
PPO CC	0	4	4
Prudential HealthCare	809	0	-809
United HealthCare	454	0	-454
Totals	5,141	5,025	-116



The Whistle

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Published by Institute Communications and Public Affairs.

Publication is weekly throughout the academic year and biweekly throughout the summer.

The Whistle can be accessed electronically through the Georgia Tech web page, or directly at www.whistle.gatech.edu.

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Cost/\$675 Copies/5,200

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Georgia Tech is a unit of the University System of Georgia.

Earthquake assistance



In response to the earthquake that hit the Kutch district of Gujarat on January 26, the India Club has established the CRY Gujarat Relief Fund for people wishing to contribute. It is believed that the quake, measuring 7.9 on the Richter scale, has taken more than 50,000 lives and put 1.25 million more out of their homes. Donations can be mailed to the India Club CRY Gujarat Relief fund at 334137 Georgia Tech Station, Atlanta, GA 30332.



At left, the Georgia Tech chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority rehearses for the Annual Step Show, held on February 3 as part of Georgia Tech's Black History Month Celebration. Sponsored by the African American Student Union (AASU), the show drew nearly 1,200 attendees and filled the Ferst Center for the Arts to capacity. The step performances, which owe much to African dance and ritual, were judged by Greek alumni in categories such as precision, creativity and diction. Other scheduled events during the month include African Dance classes on February 20 and 27, a keynote address from Al Sharpton on February 15, and a visit to the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site on February 24. Call 894-2802 for more details.

Correction: A story in the February 5 issue related to new auto discounts for employees misstated the given name of the associate vice president of human resources, who spoke about the new benefit. He is Chuck Donbaugh, not John. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

High school women explore non-engineering majors at Tech

Amelia Gambino
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

On February 12 the campus will be under the scrutiny of more than 300 high school women not interested in engineering. The group will be attending the second annual Futures program, sponsored by the Office of Special Programs in Enrollment Services. Carol Heller, the program’s director, said, “We’re doing it to tell young women about all of the other things we have besides engineering.”

The College of Engineering has concentrated on recruiting women through the Society of Women in Engineering and through the efforts of Mimi Philibos, director, Women in Engineering. Futures is designed to target female high academic achievers who may be considering



The Futures program was designed to promote the academic environment at Tech to high school women.

Photo by Stanley Leary

careers in the sciences, computing, architecture, management, or liberal studies.

Heller says that in three or four years her office will be able to see if the effort has paid off. “As with all of our special programs, they can do a detailed tracking of how many attendees applied, were accepted and enrolled

through a coding system in Banner. Next year we’ll be able to run the first report on Futures.”

Tech’s admissions office has tracked increased interest in the Institute by young women for the last four years. According to Deborah Smith, director in the Office of Undergraduate Admission, “Although we’ve seen a 21 percent increase in the number of enrolled freshman women from 1997 to 2000, our yield from ‘accepted’ to ‘deposited’ status is not as good for women as it is for men. I hope that Futures and programs like it will

help young women see that we’re not an all-male engineering school. We want them to know that they are welcome and that they have options.”

The 10th and 11th grade women attending Futures are nominated by their high school counselors for the all-day visitation program. All events take place in the Student Center and include an admissions information session; an optional campus tour; panel discussions featuring faculty, student, President’s Scholars, and financial aid representatives; and small group discussions specific to degrees offered in the Colleges of Architecture, Computing, Management, Sciences, and the Ivan Allen College.

Ivan Allen College Dean Sue Rosser said, “IAC is pleased that half of our undergraduate students, more than half of our graduate students, and one-third of our faculty are women. Their experiences and perspectives are crucial to blending the technical competence that characterizes Georgia Tech with the liberal arts approach to understanding the full range of implications of technological change. Women students will find a comfortable environment and a challenging education in IAC. We hope that these young women will see that we offer good preparation for their careers and their lives.”

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organizational factors in safety policies and regulations.”

- Gary Schuster, the current dean in Tech’s College of Sciences, spent 20 years as a professor of chemistry at the University of Illinois — five as chair of the chemistry department. He has served on the editorial advisory boards for several prominent academic journals and has authored or co-authored more than 80 papers during the last decade. Schuster received the Chancellor’s Award in 1998, is an Alfred P. Sloan Fellow and a member of the American Chemical Society.

The on-campus interviews will include meetings with a host of Tech representatives, including the President’s Office, academic deans, faculty, students, and senior academic and non-academic staff.

“It’s been a lengthy and thorough process,” said chair of the search committee, Professor James Meindl. “We’re confident that whomever is selected from this group of finalists will be capable of leading this university to the next level. We cast a wide net in looking for a new provost and have been very pleased with the quality of the applications we received.”

The primary duties of provost revolve around faculty issues. As the chief academic officer for the Institute, the provost oversees research, curriculum and other academic matters. In addition, the provost maintains close associations with both the academic affairs committee of the Board of Regents and the budget committee of the Georgia Tech Foundation.

The campus interview process should be completed by the end of February with an offer made to the top candidate shortly thereafter.

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- Adding enhanced definitions of creative scholarly contributions; and
 - Correcting a number of grammatical and spelling errors.
- The proposed changes were approved by the Senate. For further details, visit www.facultysenate.gatech.edu/asmins5dec.html.
- In addition, the Senate approved a revised version of the Student Rules and Regulations, which will appear in the 2001-2003 General Catalog (see www.facultysenate.gatech.edu/FacSenR&R.html); as well as meeting minutes of the Undergraduate Curriculum, Graduate Curriculum, Student Computer Ownership, and Student Academic and Financial committees (see www.facultysenate.gatech.edu/CommitteeMinutes00-01.html).

Register for the WLC

The deadline to register for the fourth annual Women’s Leadership Conference is February 14. Scheduled to speak are Tech alumna and surgeon Mercedes Dullum as well as orator Patricia Russell-McCloud, in addition to the workshop options addressing topics such as gender differences in communication styles, building a professional image, and balancing work and family. To be held February 23 and 24, the conference is organized by the Women’s Resource Center. For more information, visit the Women’s Leadership Conference web site at www.cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/wlc or call the GT Women’s Resource Center at 385-0230.

Notice of venue change for keynote address

Rev. Al Sharpton, scheduled to come to Georgia Tech on February 15 as part of Black History Month, is now slated to speak in the Tennenbaum Auditorium at 6 p.m. on “Civil Rights in the 21st Century.”

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Letitia Meade at 894-2802 or e-mail aasu-exec@cyberbuzz.gatech.edu.

Scholarships available to children of Tech employees

The Georgia Tech Faculty Women’s Club is offering tuition scholarships to members of the Tech community who have children enrolled at the Institute.

Scholarships range from \$500 to \$1,500 and are based on financial need and academic achievement. Interested applicants must have their paperwork completed and received by March 1.

For more information or to get an application form, call Patricia Webb at 770-487-5410.