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# Tech Wins Governor's Cup for Ninth Year Running

KRISTEN BAILEY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

For the ninth consecutive year, Georgia Tech has been recognized for the giving spirit of its employees through the State Charitable Contributions Program.

Georgia Tech received the 2016 Governor's Cup, awarded annually to the state institution with the highest average contribution per employee in the statewide fundraising endeavor.

Joe Hughes, 2016 campaign chair, and Leanne West, 2017 campaign chair, attended the annual awards ceremony on June 9.

"I want to express
my great appreciation to everyone
within the Georgia
Tech community who
contributed or pledged and, specifically,
acknowledge each of you who worked
to make this campaign a success," said
Hughes, professor in the School of

Electrical and Computer Engineering. "Because the Georgia Tech community cares, there are many children, adults, and families throughout Georgia who are being helped to live healthier, safer, and better lives."

This year, 1,135 individuals contributed or pledged a total of \$351,604. This is the second-highest total fundraising amount for the annual campaign.

Tech employees gave to 390 charitable organizations. Top recipients were the American Cancer Society, Atlanta Community Food Bank, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Foundation, St.

Jude Children's Research Hospital, and United Way of Greater Atlanta.

Georgia Tech has won the Governor's Cup 14 out of the past 16 years for state agencies or universities with 1,001–9,000 employees. The annual campaign collects donations for nonprofits and charitable organizations that serve communities all over the state. All state entities, including University System of Georgia (USG) schools, participate in the annual fundraiser.

Learn more about the annual charitable campaign at **charitable**. **gatech.edu**.

# President Sets Off for Annual Summer Tour

KRISTEN BAILEY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

As the summer season officially begins today, so does President G.P. "Bud" Peterson's annual summer tour of Georgia.

This week marks Peterson's eighth tour as president. Each summer since his arrival at Georgia Tech, the President and First Lady Val Peterson have used the summer as an opportunity to visit communities across the state. The tour is a chance for the Petersons to meet with alumni, Regents, businesses, lawmakers, and other friends of the Institute.

"The summer tour provides us with a great opportunity to see firsthand the many ways the people and programs of Georgia Tech are making a positive impact here in Georgia," said Peterson. "With a statewide economic impact that approaches \$3 billion a year, the number of partners and friends we have continues to grow. It's always good to be with state leaders, alumni, current and prospective students, parents, and people whose businesses have been affected in a positive manner by Georgia Tech."

Since 2009, the summer tours have covered 5,100 miles, with the Petersons visiting friends and leaders in more than 40 cities and nearly each of Georgia's 159 counties.

see **TOUR**, page 3

## **BRAVES' NEW WORLD**







Photos by Jess Hunt-Ralston

This summer is a history-making one for baseball in Atlanta. It's the last of the hometown Braves' two-decade run in Turner Field. By next season, the team will have moved a few miles north to Cobb County, where a flock of construction cranes is helping draw a new 41,000-seat stadium and entertainment complex out of the ground near the junction of Interstates 75 and 285. Some School of Civil and Environmental Engineering alumni have had a direct hand in the new legacy under construction on what was more than 60 acres of mostly empty land. Adam Karabenli (right) and Kyle Manweiler (top) are engineers with structural engineering firm Walter P. Moore. Adam Cobb is the project manager overseeing the ballpark's interiors for American Builders 2017, the joint venture of the four general contractors putting the stadium together. See more images from inside the ballpark at c.gatech.edu/braves.



## **A Second Wave**

After initially confirming the existence of gravitational waves in February, Georgia Tech researchers were involved in the confirmation of a second wave last week.

c.gatech.edu/morewaves

## Say That Again?

A new Georgia Tech study led by the School of Psychology's Audrey Duarte found that older people struggle to remember important details because their brains can't resist the irrelevant "stuff" they soak up subconsciously. As a result, they tend to be less confident in their memories.

c.gatech.edu/memory

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## **EVENTS**

## **ARTS & CULTURE**

## Through Aug. 5

The Robert C. Williams Museum of Papermaking hosts Pure Pulp: Contemporary Artists Working in Paper at Dieu Donné. The museum is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to

c.gatech.edu/papermuseum

## **June 24**

DramaTech Theatre presents Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? Faculty/staff tickets are \$10. Additional showings take place June 25, June 30, July 1, and July 2. All shows begin at 8 p.m. dramatech.org

## June 26 – Oct. 2

The School of Industrial Design, the Institute for People and Technology, the Wearable Computing Center, and the GVU Center present On You: Wearing Technology at the Museum of Design Atlanta. The museum, located in Midtown, is open Tuesday through Sunday. Hours vary. museumofdesign.org

## **SEMINARS & LECTURES**

## June 30

Jiri (Art) Janata, professor in the School of Chemistry and Biochemistry, discusses Vacancies, Traps, and Defects in Chemical Electronics as part of the Institute for Electronics and Nanotechnology's Technical Seminar Series. The lecture takes place from noon to 1 p.m. in Rooms 1117-1118, Marcus Nanotechnology Building.

## **HEALTH &** WELLNESS

## June 29

The Office of Human Resources hosts a Be Well session on Tips for Healthy Eyes, from noon to 1 p.m. in Room 200, Scheller College of Business. Register to attend at c.gatech.edu/eyes

## July 13

The Office of Human Resources Life Balance from noon to 1 p.m. in Room 200, Scheller College of Business. Register to attend at c.gatech.edu/worklife

**EVENTS** continued on page 3

# Social Media Claims Place in News Reporting

INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

A photo of actress Meg Ryan at the Tony Awards begins to trend on social media. Is this news because someone tweeted it? Or does it become news only after a journalist reports on it?

"I'm not sure anyone in the world actually knows the answer to this question definitively," said Eric Gilbert, assistant professor in the School of Interactive Computing. "There are just so many things going on. There are reporters that source from Twitter. There are reporters that think journalism is much higher brow than whatever Twitter is going to pay attention to. It's a little messy at the moment."

Messy indeed. As the definition of news evolves, celebrity news trending on social media now sits next to a story on the latest presidential debate.

"It's funny to watch," said Amy Bruckman, professor and associate school chair in the School of Interactive Computing. "The fact that someone's video went viral is somehow news? That's crazy. It's fascinating."

Bruckman went on to add that if a large number of people are interested in a particular topic, then that topic is relevant.

"What's trending is one way to gain some insight into what people are interested in and what is resonating with people culturally. It's an empirical measure of what people are interested in," she said.

Trending topics also give journalists a new source of data regarding what people are following.

"Journalists can both follow that as a lead, and also reverse it and say, 'I think people should be more interested in this topic, and I'm going to try and get some traction for it.' It's not one or the other. They can do both," Bruckman said.

Social media also is changing the way



journalists cover stories.

"Journalists are finding out information perhaps a bit later than the public," said Irfan Essa, professor in the School of Interactive Computing, associate dean in the College of Computing, and adjunct professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering. "For example, if there's a fire in the neighborhood, sometimes, before the emergency services department finds out, the local neighborhood folks are putting pictures on Twitter. It's to the extent that now, not just news reporters but even emergency services are learning that instead of waiting for a 9-1-1 call, they need to start looking at social media for emergency needs."

News or information — especially breaking news — is being shared more often through social media instead of through authoritative sources, Essa said. He noted that several U.S. Supreme Court decisions have been live blogged and/or tweeted even as the news media was waiting for the decision.

"Everyone is trying to be first to get out there," Essa said. "The news organizations have realized — or have not realized — that they are not always first, and they're struggling to be first. Reporters cannot be everywhere, but citizens are everywhere."

Essa also said that part of this conversation is that anyone who takes a picture and reports it is a citizen journalist. In essence, they are eyewitnesses with more direct access to a larger viewership. He refers to them

as eyewitnesses because they are recording or photographing events as they see them, without contextualizing the events. They are not adding a layer of what's relevant to it.

"I believe they are serving a much bigger need by giving us eyes where there are none," Essa said. "This has created a beast with a billion eyes. We can see things everywhere."

### **Significant Changes in Journalism**

The term 'computational journalism' was created at Georgia Tech in 2008. It explores how computation technology has changed how news is gathered, verified, and distributed. Now, some journalism schools offer courses in computational journalism, and they are hiring people with computer science backgrounds to help with this.

"How we get information and how we make decisions has changed," Essa said. "Consumers are much closer to the news. They are really quick to comment, up-vote, or down-vote things. If they really like something, they will share it with others. The most emailed news items are the biggest currency that news media has. Social media has created a virtual version of the water cooler."

This brings us back to the original question: In the era of social media, what is news?

"News was being aware of the environment around me," Essa said. "What remains is my interest in knowing what's happening around

He said there is a general belief that the younger generation follows social media more than traditional media, and they don't want to know what is happening in the world.

"From the little evidence I have, that is not entirely true," Essa noted. "They are just using different sources to get the information they're interested in. With the election happening, if you go to the younger generation, their awareness is pretty good." He said that as the father of two teen boys, he's always impressed when they know exactly what's happening around them, and their source is Reddit as opposed to more traditional media like The New York Times.

## **Buzzin' Back to School Supply Drive Underway**

MYRA OVIATT

HUMAN RESOURCES

Georgia Tech Human Resources has acquired 456 backpacks to distribute through its Buzzin' Back to School Drive, and now needs help filling them with supplies.

The annual school supply drive benefits Georgia Tech employees who may lack the financial resources to purchase school supplies for their children in grades K-12.

Following are the supplies kids typically need for school that will be used to fill backpacks in the

coming weeks:

- College-ruled or wide-ruled paper
- College-ruled or wide-ruled notebooks
- No. 2 pencils
- Black or blue pens
- Erasers
- Glue sticks
- Rulers
- Pocket folders
- Crayons
- Three-ring binders
- Index cards
- Composition notebooks
- Pencil sharpeners

Donations can be taken to unit human resources representatives or to the Human Resources office at 500 Tech Parkway.



The deadline for donations and to apply to receieve a backpack is Monday, July 18. Backpack recipients will be drawn at random, and backpacks will be distributed beginning July 26.

For more information on applying for a backpack or donating, visit ohr.gatech.edu/ buzzinbacktoschool.

## HR UPDATES

#### **Graduate Student Employee Processing**

Graduate Student Employee Processing (GSEP) will take place Aug. 17-18 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the third floor of the Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons. New graduate student employees (GRAs, GTAs, and GAs) can submit documents for payroll processing and begin the onboarding process. GSEP is a one-stop shop for new graduate student employees to quickly onboard with Georgia Tech Human Resources. Help your new graduate employees avoid the back-to-school rush by encouraging them to attend this event.



Editor: Kristen Bailey

Photos: Rob Felt or Fitrah Hamid, unless noted

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Archives are posted at www.whistle.gatech.edu.

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#### TOUR, from page 1

This year's tour will cover 570 miles through Middle Georgia and metro Atlanta. They will travel through 21 counties and 15 cities.

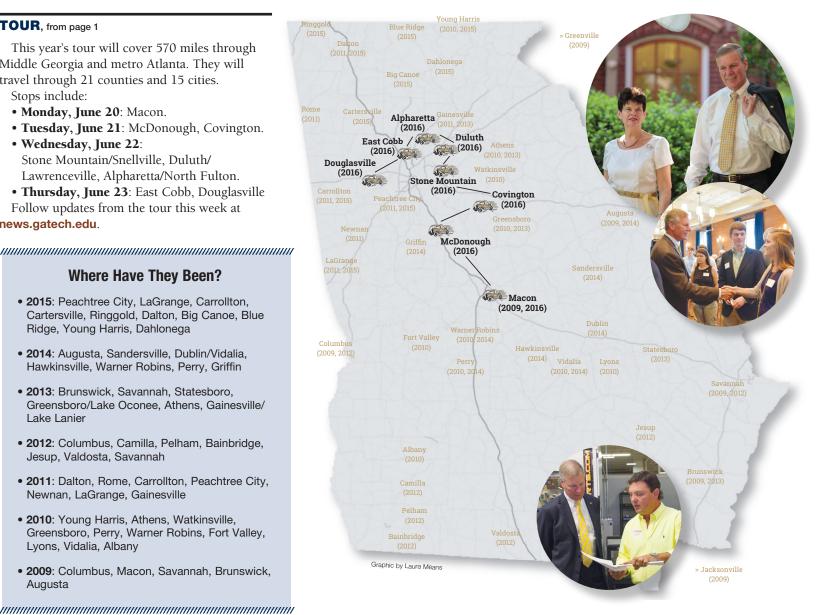
Stops include:

- Monday, June 20: Macon.
- Tuesday, June 21: McDonough, Covington.
- Wednesday, June 22: Stone Mountain/Snellville, Duluth/ Lawrenceville, Alpharetta/North Fulton.
- Thursday, June 23: East Cobb, Douglasville Follow updates from the tour this week at

#### news.gatech.edu.

## Where Have They Been?

- 2015: Peachtree City, LaGrange, Carrollton, Cartersville, Ringgold, Dalton, Big Canoe, Blue Ridge, Young Harris, Dahlonega
- 2014: Augusta, Sandersville, Dublin/Vidalia, Hawkinsville, Warner Robins, Perry, Griffin
- 2013: Brunswick, Savannah, Statesboro, Greensboro/Lake Oconee, Athens, Gainesville/ Lake Lanier
- 2012: Columbus, Camilla, Pelham, Bainbridge, Jesup, Valdosta, Savannah
- 2011: Dalton, Rome, Carrollton, Peachtree City, Newnan, LaGrange, Gainesville
- 2010: Young Harris, Athens, Watkinsville, Greensboro, Perry, Warner Robins, Fort Valley, Lyons, Vidalia, Albany
- 2009: Columbus, Macon, Savannah, Brunswick, Augusta



## **EVENTS**

## TRAINING

### **June 29**

The Georgia Tech student chapter of the American Society for Engineering Education hosts its 4th annual INSPIRE2 teaching workshop for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Technology Square Research Building Banquet Hall. The workshop will include sessions on nontraditional, interactive teaching methods that promote classroom engagement.

c.gatech.edu/inspire2

## **July 6-27**

The Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning is providing an on-campus learning community for a course titled Integrating Creativity, Innovation, and Design Thinking in STEM Courses. The community will meet Wednesdays from 1 to 3 p.m. in Room 466A, Clough Commons. Learn more and register at

c.gatech.edu/stemlearning

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### June 20

Classes begin for Late Short Summer Session. registrar.gatech.edu

## June 20-24

The Petit Institute hosts its annual Swap-O-Rama for summer cleanup of labs in the biotechnology area of campus.

c.gatech.edu/petitswap

## July 2

Withdrawal deadline for Full Summer

registrar.gatech.edu

Campus is closed in observance of Independence Day.

## **July 7–8**

Incoming first-year students attend **FASET Orientation. Additional** sessions take place throughout the summer.

nssp.gatech.edu

## July 8

The Student Center and Georgia Tech Athletics present a free showing of Star Wars: The Force Awakens at 8 p.m. at Bobby Dodd Stadium.

c.gatech.edu/doddafterdark

## July 9

Withdrawal deadline for Late Short Summer and Summer Freshmen. registrar.gatech.edu

For a more comprehensive listing of events, or to add your own, visit calendar.gatech.edu.

## **Relentless Advocacy in Government and Community Relations**

INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Each June, the Office of Government and Community Relations works with the Alumni Association and the Office of Development to organize the President's annual summer tour. That's just one week out of the year, though.

This team of people works year-round to help Georgia Tech connect with surrounding government, community, and business partners.

At the Staff Council's recent Inform Georgia Tech event, Dene Sheheane, vice president of Government and Community Relations, shared some insight on the department's goals and how it operates.

"Our motto is, 'gentle pressure relentlessly applied," Sheheane said.

The office consists of three teams focused on community, federal, and state relations.

Community relations primarily focuses on connections with surrounding neighborhoods and entities, including Atlanta Public Schools, the City of Atlanta, and the Westside Communities Alliance.

The federal team consists of two full-time staff members, one in Atlanta and one in Washington, D.C., who work with government leaders and agencies on a national level. Georgia Tech receives \$408 million in federal funding for research — among the top of its peer institutions that do not have a medical school. This means maintaining relationships with federal agencies is crucial to the research enterprise.

## **Keep in Touch**

To keep up with community, federal, and state relations throughout the year, sign up for their various newsletters at gov.gatech.edu.

For many people, though, the most visible area of Government and Community Relations' work may be at the state level. As the University System of Georgia (USG) institution with the largest economic impact, Georgia Tech has numerous partners statewide but a smaller number of alumni engaged directly in politics. Of the 236 state congressional representatives, 10 are Tech graduates. (In U.S. Congress, it's just three of 535.) Locally, the numbers fair slightly better, where 2 out of 15 Atlanta City Council members are Tech alumni (and one, Andre Dickens, is a Tech employee).

Government and Community Relations is careful to serve in a bipartisan role, making friends and allies on both sides of the aisle under Atlanta's Gold Dome. It connects both College Democrats and College Republicans with guest speakers and local representatives to educate and advocate for student issues.

The office also manages internship programs both in Atlanta and Washington, D.C., placing Tech students in various roles at the intersection of policy and technology at both capitols.

"We have people request Tech students because they know they make great interns," Sheheane said.

Sheheane then discussed the 2016 legislative session in particular and the challenges it

"This was my 26th session, and I've never had anything quite like it," he said.

Though Georgia Tech voluntarily withdrew its request for funding for the Library Renewal project until completion of abatement of the facility, Sheheane said the project is well positioned to receive that funding next year.

Successes this year included funding for an expansion of the Advanced Technology Development Center, Georgia Tech's startup incubator serving the state of Georgia; legislation to provide a HOPE GPA boost for students taking STEM courses; full formula funding and full major repair and renovation funding; and funding for salary merit increases.

Meanwhile, the team is already looking to next year to prepare for continued conversations about ongoing issues such as tuition rates and campus carry legislation.

"Several states now have campus carry in some form, and USG schools are doing safety reports now in response to the legislation that was put forward this session," Sheheane said. Georgia Governor Nathan Deal ultimately vetoed the bill that had passed both chambers but was opposed by several USG police chiefs and presidents, including Georgia Tech's.

Sheheane reminded attendees of the USG's political policy, which encourages employees to engage in citizen obligations and normal political processes, including holding local office, so long as the position does not conflict or interfere with their professional duties and responsibilities. Employees may not hold state or federal office, though. (The full policy can be viewed at **c.gatech.edu/usg-personnel**.)

The Staff Council will host its next Inform Georgia Tech session in August, with a focus on campus services, health, well-being, and parking. A session later in the fall will focus on campus planning.

Learn more and see archived presentations at staffcouncil.gatech.edu.

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# **Finding Fulfillment in Safety and Adventure**

## **Biosafety Officer Partners with Researchers to Keep Labs Safe**

KRISTEN BAILEY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

For someone who initially set out to be a full-time researcher, overseeing biosafety for a large research enterprise is a natural fit.

Meagan Fitzpatrick, biosafety officer in Environmental Health and Safety, studied biology and chemistry as an undergraduate at Loyola University. Once she started doing research, though, she realized the lab was not where she wanted to be.

"I like working with people and wasn't getting to do that," she said. Now, she's able to support academic research in a different way. "I still get to read science and talk about it a lot, but on a broader, macro level."

The Biosafety Office within Georgia Tech's Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) unit oversees training, resources, and protocols for biohazards for research labs across campus. Their job is to ensure the safety of both those in the labs and those on the rest of the campus.

"We're not just here to dictate rules, but to coach," she said. "We strive to develop a partnership with the researcher community. We see them as our clients."

When dealing with biosafety, no two days are alike. One challenge on the job can be trying to plan long-term when you never know what the day will bring.

"We've had incidents where researchers will have an exposure to a biological material due to a percutaneous injury involving a sharp object, like a needle, piece of broken glass, or a razor blade," Fitzpatrick said. "We teach them to wash the exposed area for 15 minutes with soap and warm water at the sink and then to call the Georgia Tech Police Department, who dispatch to the EHS emergency phone so we can assist with next steps. After the incident, we work to ensure that the individual receives any required medical care."

After an incident, EHS debriefs with those involved in an incident to determine the cause and what can be done to prevent a similar incident and improve future response.

"This is key because, truly, there are no accidents," she said. "All exposures and injuries can be prevented and that's what we seek to do."

Fitzpatrick held a similar position at Emory University for six years before coming to Tech in 2014. While there, she received a Master of Public Health in Environmental Health from the university's Rollins School. Her master's capstone project on standard operating procedure and risk assessment for a patient isolation unit used to transport highly infectious patients within the Department of Defense to Emory University allowed her to work with Emory's physicians as they prepared to receive and treat patients with infected with highly infectious diseases, like those infected with Ebola in 2014. Fitzpatrick also trained doctors at Stamps Health Services on Ebola protocols when she came to Tech.

In addition, her master's work focused on sustainability, which has served as a primer for some of her work at Tech. She is part of a sustainability committee with Facilities Management and chairs a subcommittee on program development. Their current project



Photos Courtesy of Meagan Fitzpatrick

(Above) Meagan Fitzpatrick, biosafety officer in Environmental Health and Safety, holds crow pose during a session of standup paddleboard yoga at Lake Lanier. (Below) Fitzpatrick poses with her husband, Kevin. They are expecting their first child in September.

is a workplace sustainability pilot which was developed in through a partnership with the Office of Campus Sustainability.

"We provide a sort of checklist of things for offices to work toward to get certified as a green office," she said. The checklist is focused on behavioral changes and includes sections like on waste reduction, energy efficiency, and a safe and healthy office environment. The pilot is currently underway in the Facilities and the Office of Undergraduate Education.

"[Georgia Tech] is such a warm and welcoming place ... if you show an interest, there are going to be opportunities for you."

— Meagan Fitzpatrick

Beyond campus, Fitzpatrick is involved in the larger biosafety community through the Campus Safety Health and Environmental Management Association, as a member of its board of trustees. She's also a member of the American Biological Safety Association.

"You learn a lot from working on different things and with people you don't normally interact with," she said. "Sometimes a new problem can feel like this huge elephant, but there's probably someone out there who has already dealt with it and can help you work through it."

Originally from Maryland, Fitzpatrick and her husband have made a home in Atlanta over the past eight years. They'll soon be growing their family, as their first child is due in September.

"It's been the two of us for so long, and it's exciting to add someone new — besides our dog — and for the priority shift that will happen," she said.

As a varsity swimmer at Loyola for four years, following years of childhood swimming, being active and outdoors has always been part of Fitzpatrick's life. Family vacations often



included outdoor activities, which still play a leading role for her and her husband. They often spend weekends hiking or walking in Atlanta's parks, and Fitzpatrick is an active yogi. Her preferred practice is power vinyasa, a fast-paced and challenging version of yoga. She's even combined her indoor and outdoor interests and tried standup paddleboard yoga.

At six months pregnant, though, the power vinyasa is now taking a backseat to prenatal practice.

"It's definitely a slower pace," she said. "There's more lying down."

Both in work and her hobbies, Fitzpatrick is eager to get involved and take on new challenges. Thankfully, she's found Tech to be just the right place for that.

"It's such a warm and welcoming place," she said. "If you show an interest in trying something or working on something, there are going to be opportunities for you."

## **CLASSIFIEDS**

## **AUTOMOBILES**

2009 Mini 2D, Manual. 89K miles, new alternator, new tires, new timing chain, just detailed, 35 mpg in Atlanta traffic. Sunroof, AM/FM, CD, iPod hook-up. No accidents. Fun to drive. Too small for two German Shepherd dogs. \$5K OBO. Contact kathleen@ moorestories.com.

2002 Toyota Avalon XLS. Gray with gray interior, 165K miles. Second owner, excellent condition, well-maintained, maintenance records available for review. \$4,395 OBO. Contact Dinesh at dsharma@mes-inc. net.

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

## **REAL ESTATE**

For rent: 2BR/2.5BA house in East Cobb/Marietta, Johnson Ferry and Post Oak Tritt Road. Fully furnished, sun room, enclosed patio, garage, pool. Lawn service provided. \$1,800/mo. includes DirecTV and Netflix. Contact Sandra Sheppard, 770-364-3692.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

The Georgia Tech Research Institute's Human Systems Engineering lab is looking for males ages 18-49 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 \$30. Contact 404-407-7948 or amanda.foster@gtri.gatech.edu.

For sale: Shaker/Mission Style Storehouse Desk. Dark wood finish, 5' x 2.5', pull-out tray under desk for keyboard or supplies, good condition. \$250 firm. Text 404-790-9831 for photos.

For sale: Valid, unused GRTA XPRESS Bus 31 Day Pass for Blue Routes. Normally \$125 (\$115 through Georgia Tech payroll deduction), will sell for \$75. Text 912-531-4793 or email pbrown49@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 painted wood.

Excellent condition, \$600. Antique oak 5-drawer dresser and mirror, \$300. Upholstered chair, \$100. Maple armoire with red and green staining highlights, \$100. Text 770-576-0704 for photos.

For sale: Schwinn Mesa mountain bike, 2007 model in excellent condition, only ridden a few times. Needs a tune up and new tires. Can provide pictures upon request. Asking \$200. If interested, email rprogersjr@ amail.com for additional information.

Free yellow jacket nest removal. Nests to be used for research in the School of Biology. Call 404-385-6311 or e-mail michael.goodisman@biology. gatech.edu.

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