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Staff Council Hosts Fall Carnival This Week; Elections Upcoming

VIRGINIA SHEPPARD STAFF COUNCIL

The fall semester is well underway, and the leaves are beginning to turn. What better time for a carnival?

The Georgia Tech Staff Council invites all employees to a carnival-themed meet-and-greet on the lawn of the Campus Recreation Center (CRC) on Thursday, Sept. 20, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Employees can enjoy games, snacks, prizes, and meeting Staff Council members, who will be on hand to answer questions about the

Staff Council and hear staff-related concerns. Bring a BuzzCard to attend. In the event of rain, the carnival will move inside the CRC.

The Staff Council exists to understand perspectives that are representative of the broad population of staff about matters of institutional importance, and to communicate those perspectives along with advice and suggestions to the Georgia Tech senior leadership. The council meets the third Tuesday of each month at

see **STAFF**, page 3



Morales is pictured in the Joseph B. Whitehead Building, where she works on programs focused on helping faculty, staff, and students prioritize their health.

Nurturing Well-Being and Health: Meet Sarah Morales

VICTOR ROGERS INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Sarah Morales has always been interested in the health field, in education, and in working with young adults. Since July 2017, she has been able to incorporate those interests into her job as a health educator with Health Initiatives, working with the Tech community on a variety of health topics.

Health Initiatives' five-dimension model of well-being includes the aspects of: professional, physical, social, emotional, and spiritual. "We're looking to create a community of

see **MORALES**, page 2

RETIREE SPOTLIGHT

Faculty and staff members who retired between July 1, 2017, and June 30, 2018, will be honored this month at the 2018 Retirement Dinner on Thursday, Sept. 27.



Leahy, a lover of trains, is pictured in his office in the College of Computing Building, before his retirement.

Leahy Leaves Behind 30-Year Computing Legacy

BEN SNEDEKER COLLEGE OF COMPUTING

Director of the Division of Computing Instruction (DCI) and Senior Lecturer Bill Leahy officially retired at the end of 2017, closing a career that began as a College of Computing graduate student teaching assistant in 1998.

For thousands of computer science majors over the past two decades, Leahy has been the face of computing at Georgia Tech. His sense of humor, his knowledge, and his passion for teaching computer science have all had a lasting impact on majors and non-majors alike.

"Bill is very much loved by the student community. Over the past 20 years, whenever I meet alumni, more often than not, his name comes up," said Zvi Galil, John P. Imlay Dean and Professor of the College of Computing. "They always tell me that their favorite instructor was Bill Leahy.3

Although he's loved and admired now for his wit and ease in the classroom, Leahy was a bit stiff when he began teaching introductory computer science at the College in January 2000.

"It may be hard to believe, but I have a bit of stage fright. So, I would walk into class with a set of PowerPoint slides, and that was the script," said Leahy. "That is what I was going to present. It was all sort of rehearsed."

The Power of Improv

His approach changed when one of his daughters started acting with the well-known Atlanta improv company, Dad's Garage. Through what Leahy referred to as "a series of weird events," he started doing lighting for shows at Dad's.

One evening a friend suggested that Leahy should take an improv

see LEAHY, page 4



Atlanta Colleges Team Up on Data Science Education



A project supported by the National Science Foundation brings Agnes Scott, Morehouse, and Spelman Colleges together with Georgia Tech to develop data science courses.

c.gatech.edu/datascienceedu

Tech Gets Grant for Food Safety Modernization



The Georgia Manufacturing Extension Partnership at Georgia Tech was awarded a \$986,805 grant to create a food safety program that will serve small food and beverage manufacturers in Georgia, Iowa, Idaho, and Oregon.

c.gatech.edu/foodsafety

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health and well-being on campus, and make

EVENTS

WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING

Sept. 19

The Impact Speaker Series hosts a talk on Purpose, Profit, and the Future of Work with Gareth Hedges, president of The Redwoods Group, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the LeCraw Auditorium, Scheller College of Business. scheller.gatech.edu/impact

Sept. 25

Human Resources hosts a Be Well session for first-time homebuyers from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Room 320, Student Center. hr.gatech.edu/bewell

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Sept. 19

The Mindfulness Book Club discusses Mindfulness Meditation: Your Guide to Achieving a Life of Peace by Reducing Stress and Anxiety through Mindfulness Meditation from noon to 1 p.m. in Room 301, Student Center. See the full semester meeting schedule at: healthinitiatives.gatech.edu

Sept. 20

An Overeaters Anonymous meeting takes place Thursdays from noon to 1 p.m. at Room 230, Stamps Health Services.

atlantaoa.org

SEMINARS AND LECTURES

Sept. 24

A Frontiers in Science lecture hosts Seth Shostak, senior astronomer at SETI Institute, to discuss When Will We Find E.T. and What Happens If We Do? The event will take place from 6 to 7 p.m. in Room 152, Clough Commons. sciences.gatech.edu

Sept. 26

The College of Design Diversity and Inclusion Council hosts Peggy McIntosh, senior research scientist and former associate director for the Wellesley Centers for Women; Kaye Husbands Fealing, professor and chair of the School of Public Policy; and Robert Kirkman, associate professor and director of graduate studies for the School of Public Policy to discuss diversity and inclusion, and facilitate an open discussion. The event will take place at 4 p.m. in the Reinsch-Pierce Family Auditorium, East Architecture Building. design.gatech.edu

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In his roles as a civil rights activist, congressman, ambassador, and mayor, Andrew Young changed the course of history and shaped modern-day society. Georgia Tech awarded Young the 2018 Ivan Allen Jr. Prize for Social Courage on Thursday, Sept. 13. The event included a morning symposium, moderated by Monica Kaufman Pearson, former news anchor with WSB-TV; lunch; the award presentation; and a town hall with students, which Young requested as part of the event. College students, he said, are "not afraid of anybody different." See more coverage from the event at news.gatech.edu.

MORALES, from page 1

sure students and employees are flourishing in all of their dimensions of well-being."

Health Initiatives is well known for nutrition appointments, contraception availability, VOICE (sexual violence prevention), and free HIV testing offered twice a semester.

One of Health Initiatives' signature programs involves Well-Being Activators, where student or employee representatives from various departments and organizations help others make healthy choices.

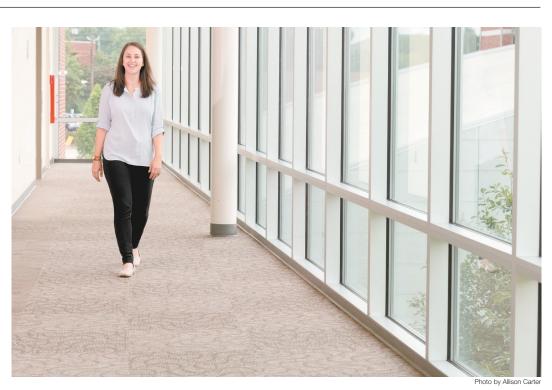
This fall, Morales and a colleague, JaPeera Edmonds, are focusing on the Healthy Jackets Peer Education Program. They are recruiting students this fall, then, in the spring, they will extensively train the first cohort of students to plan and implement health programs for their peers.

"I like working at Georgia Tech because every day is different — sometimes I'm in the office; sometimes I'm out exploring campus," Morales said. "I get to meet so many interesting people from different departments. Being able to talk about health and well-being with such a diverse group of people is really exciting. Hearing about their viewpoints and how they infuse health and well-being into the classroom or things they think we should be working on here — it's just exciting to be a part of that."

The Road to Georgia Tech

Morales has a bachelor's degree in environmental studies from Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts, and a master's degree in public health from Emory University with a concentration in behavioral science and health education. She also is a certified health education specialist.

Before coming to Tech in 2017, she was in an AmeriCorps program called City Year



Morales works on the second floor of the Joseph B. Whitehead Building, which houses Stamps Health Services

where she worked in an eighth-grade science classroom. Then she worked in elementary special education for two years.

"I really enjoyed that, but I was missing the health aspect," she said. "That's when I decided to get my degree in public health."

While at Emory University, she interned at the CDC and Georgia Tech. After graduating, she worked for the city of San Antonio, Texas, in its Healthy Start program, supporting pregnant women and mothers in low-income communities.

"My favorite part of being a health educator is speaking with students and helping them facilitate the behavior change that they want to see in their lives."

Away from the office, Morales and her husband, Gilbert, like to explore hiking

trails, try new restaurants, and browse local bookstores.

Morales also takes time to pursue her lifelong tennis passion. She grew up playing in junior tournaments, and she was on her high school and college teams. She also was a ball girl for the Family Circle Cup - and got to be on the court with players such as Venus and Serena Williams. Now, she plays on two Atlanta Lawn Tennis Association (ALTA) tennis leagu women's doubles and mixed doubles.

Morales and her tennis partner, Sutton Boling, came in second place in the city finals last spring.

"Tennis has always been a big part of my life," she said. "Coming to Atlanta was exciting because there's such a big tennis scene here with opportunities to get involved."



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In Memoriam Sarah Farrar

Sarah Farrar, an academic advisor in the College of Computing, died Wednesday, Aug. 29, after a brief illness.

Farrar had advised students in the Online Master of Science in Computer Science program since January 2017. Before that, she spent six years as a transfer credit and readmission advisor for the Institute.

"Sarah was highly respected by her colleagues and deeply appreciated by her advisees," said Zvi Galil, John P. Imlay Jr. Chair and dean of the College of Computing. "As an advisor to our online students, Sarah helped build a community that stretched across the country and around the world. We will miss her."



Her colleagues in Advising remember her as a music lover with a great sense of humor and a powerful devotion to her

family. Farrar is survived by her husband John and two children, Lucas and Maya. Farrar's family has since started a memorial page for her to raise money for the National Kidney Foundation. Farrar was a kidney organ donation recipient and actively involved in the recipient community, raising thousands of dollars for the National Kidney Foundation on her own over the years. To learn more about Farrar and the family's efforts, visit **team.kidney.org/campaign/In-Honor-of-Sarah-Farrar**.

EVERYDAY GEORGIA



The Everyday Georgia project is exploring the lives of people all over the state who have been touched by Georgia Tech's research and technology initiatives. Through the coupling of photographs and interviews, the project shares the personal stories of Georgians — their challenges, accomplishments, and vital role in Creating the Next at Georgia Tech. The interviews are also a valuable way to give agency and additional context to the subjects documented in the photographs. Pictured above is the Atlanta Police Department's Jacquelyn Gwinn-Villaroel, who has been working with Georgia Tech Assistant Professor Yao Xie to test an algorithm that finds connections between crime incidents. The algorithm examines data captured by 911 operators and by police officers at the scene of a crime to find patterns between cases, which could help solve serial crimes. Hear the stories of the Georgians featured in this project at **art.library.gatech.edu/everyday-ga**, and see the exhibit in person at its opening on Thursday, Sept. 27, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Institute for People and Technology, Suite 600, Centergy Building. RSVP at c.gatech.edu/everydayga-rsvp.

Dedicate September to Emergency Preparation

With hurricane season underway, National Preparedness Month provides a chance to focus on being prepared for the next emergency.

Atlanta has seen its share of emergency events, including flooded and iced-over interstates. Emergencies can happen at any time of year, and Georgia Tech's Office of Emergency Preparedness is dedicated to preventing and managing emergency situations on campus.

To keep up with potential threats, follow the office on Facebook (fb. com/GTEmergency) and Twitter (twitter.com/GTPDalerts), or visit emergencypreparedness.gatech.edu to learn more about their work. A list of emergency preparedness training opportunities is also available at the Emergency Preparedness site or at trains.gatech.edu.

National Preparedness Month is an initiative of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which also offers resources to help with preparation. This September, focus is on planning, with a theme of "Disasters Happen. Prepare Now. Learn How." To view a toolkit to start preparations and to follow the month's activities, visit the DHS website at **ready.gov/september**.

FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Ellen Dunham-Jones, professor and director of the Master of Science in Urban Design program in the College of Design, was selected as one of the 2018 winners of the Architectural Record's Women in Architecture awards.

Facilities Management recently earned the APPA Award for Excellence, considered one of the greatest industry accomplishments in the higher education facilities industry. The award celebrates comprehensive achievements in efficiency, leadership, customer focus, and innovative practices. Facilities Management is one of the largest units on campus, comprised of 535 staff members across 13 departments.

Ayanna Howard, professor and chair of the School of Interactive Computing, earned one of 15 exploreCSR (computer science research) awards from Google. The award will support the Academic Matriculation of Undergraduate Women in Graduate Computing (I.AM. GradComputing) Workshop.

Hans Klein, Associate Professor in the School of Public Policy, is on leave serving as the Microsoft Visiting Professor of Information Technology Policy at Princeton University.

The National Neurotrauma Society has selected **Michelle LaPlaca**, associate professor in the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering, as president-elect for the 2019-20 term.

Johnny Smith, the Julius C. "Bud" Shaw Assistant Professor in Sports, Society, and Technology in the School of History and Sociology, will be honored as a 2018 Emerging Voice Award recipient by the College of Liberal Arts at Purdue University.

Iris Tien, assistant professor in the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and graduate student **Cynthia Lee**, won the first-place Paper Award in Infrastructure at Resilience Week 2018 for their work using a variety of data sources to better understand and design infrastructure systems.

Gleb Yushin, professor in the School of Materials Science and Engineering, has been selected for induction into the North Carolina State University Alumni Hall of Fame. The ceremony will take place Nov. 2.

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9 a.m. Location information can be found on the Staff Council calendar at **staffcouncil.gatech.edu**.

This year, the Staff Council will continue its Inform Georgia Tech series, where it hosts speakers from different campus departments to explain how various aspects of the Institute work. This year's first event in the series will cover perks and programs available through Georgia Tech Human Resources and the University System of Georgia. The event will take place Tuesday, Oct. 2, from noon to 1 p.m. in Press Room B, Bill Moore Student Success Center.

Nominations for membership to the Staff Council and for committee participation are now also underway. The Staff Council has openings in the areas of Administrative and Professional, Skilled Trades, and Information Technology for seven members, each of whom serve a three-year term, beginning in January 2019. Full requirements are available online at **staffcouncil.gatech.edu/staff-council-elections**. Nominations are due Friday, Sept. 28, and self-nominations are welcome. Voting will be open Oct. 15–26.

Committee participation is a one-year commitment, and participants can choose from one of five committees: Campus Physical Environment, Communication, Compensation and Benefits, Employee Engagement, and Employee Health and Well-Being. Applications are also due Friday, Sept. 28.

To learn more about the Staff Council, visit **staffcouncil.gatech.edu**.

EVENTS

ARTS AND CULTURE

Sept. 23

Georgia Tech Chamber Orchestra and Symphony Orchestra present *Music in Motion*, collaborating with dancers and guest choreographer Kristel Tedesco, at 4 p.m. at Bailey Hall, Kennesaw State University. **music.gatech.edu**

MISCELLANEOUS

Sept. 19

The Georgia Tech Community Market (formerly the Farmers Market) will take place on Tech Walk on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. studentcenter.gatech.edu

Sept. 20

The LGBTQIA Resource Center hosts Queer Research Hour, where faculty members will share their research on LGBTQIA topics. The event will take place from 11 a.m. to noon in the Center on the first floor of the Smithgall Student Services (Flag) Building. Igbtqia.gatech.edu

Sept. 20

Postdoctoral fellows will present their work at the Postdoctoral Research Symposium from noon to 5 p.m. at the Petit Institute. postdocs.gatech.edu

Sept. 20

The Institute for People and Technology hosts a Thursday Think Tank on Poverty in a STEM Environment, from 3 to 5 p.m. in Suite 600, Centergy Building. ipat.gatech.edu

Sept. 20

The Women's Resource Center hosts a welcome reception for new women faculty, staff, and student leaders from 4 to 5 p.m. in President's Suites C/D, Bill Moore Student Success Center. womenscenter.gatech.edu

Sept. 20

The Georgia Tech Observatory will host Public Night from 8 to 10:30 p.m. at the Howey Physics Building, weather permitting. astronomy.gatech.edu

Sept. 21

Georgia Tech's club hockey team faces the University of Georgia at 9 p.m. at The ICE, 1345 Atlanta Hwy., Cumming, Georgia 30040. gthockey.com

Sept. 22

Georgia Tech Football hosts Clemson University at 3:30 p.m. at Bobby Dodd Stadium. ramblinwreck.com

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

LEAHY, from page 1

class for kicks. One class led to several more, both at Dad's Garage and elsewhere in Atlanta. Everything changed from there.

"I can't tell you how much improv helped me in the classroom," said Leahy. "I can't say it enough that, if you're a teacher, you should take an improv class."

Along with using improv exercises to "wake up" sleepy undergraduates, Leahy's new skills allowed him to relax in the classroom and engage with his students in more meaningful ways.

"I would go into class and stuff would just pop into my mind. I don't know where it comes from," he explained. "The other day in a class, talking about C programming, I said, 'Nobody came down from the mountain and gave Moses the laws of C programming. I know because I was there!"

Letting Students in on a Secret

Along with providing him a more streamof-consciousness approach in the classroom, working at Dad's Garage and on plays around the city helped Leahy realize just how important storytelling is.

"I try to make my lectures a story," he explained. "Here's a situation and a problem people faced, and here's how they solved it.' I was surprised at first, but the students responded very positively. I think they like the presentation like they've just heard this cool story and they're in on a secret."

To say that students have responded well to Leahy's approach over the years is an understatement.

In fact, many undergraduates claim Leahy as their favorite teacher at Georgia Tech, citing his humor and patience as inspiring them to either pursue a minor in CS or to switch majors altogether. Many more developed strong emotional bonds with him.

This last sentiment is probably best captured by a student posting to a popular professor rating site, who wrote, "I'm a grown-ass man and I haven't cried in years, but realizing I was done with Bill's class made me curl up in the fetal position and cry a river."

"You know, it's not like we're teaching them how to disarm a bomb, where if they cut the blue wire the thing will explode," said Leahy. "There's no need for it not to be fun. When you really love what you're doing, you try to find ways to do it that people like."

Early Experience Comes in Handy

Prior to his career at Georgia Tech, Leahy was finding ways to teach and inspire his coworkers at Corning, the longstanding U.S. manufacturing company.

With bachelor's and master's degrees in ceramics engineering from Virginia Tech, Leahy began his career with Corning in 1973 as a product engineer in the television products division, making TV tubes for RCA, Zenith, Philips, and other manufacturers.

It was around this time that the company introduced a new management software system that no one could figure out how to use. No one except Leahy.

"I had always been interested in computers and I started out in electrical engineering at Virginia Tech, so I had some programming experience and background," he said.

Before long, Leahy was training employees how to use the new system and writing the training protocols the company would use to train others. "Anytime I had a chance to teach I would take it, so anytime there was new tech to be introduced, I was involved in the training rollout."

After a series of promotions in different



Leahy learned much of his teaching style in the classroom from taking improv classes. "I can't say it enough that, if you're a teacher, you should take an improv class," he said.

divisions at Corning — from lead control engineer, to lead process engineer, to plant chief engineer — Leahy's division was sold to a French company.

Bon Voyage

At this point, Leahy had the opportunity to take a job in France. He jumped at the chance and spent four years living and working abroad, picking up fluent French along the way.

Following his stint in France, Bill returned to the U.S. corporate office. Not long after, he saw a flyer advertising a plant manager's position to oversee construction of a new manufacturing plant in the Southeast.

"The sign said you had to have manufacturing experience and you had to have something else that I don't remember, and it said you had to be able to speak French. I looked at this and thought, 'I'm the only person in the entire company that meets these requirements," said Bill.

Bill got the job and moved his family to Georgia. In his new role, Leahy was the lead in a \$50 million gas furnace plant in Covington that manufactures perfume and cosmetic bottles.

"They wanted an American to build the plant and someone French to run it. There were jobs in Massachusetts and New Jersey, but at this point, I was ready for something different. My wife said, 'Why don't you do something fun?"

Looking for a New Direction

Leahy had always enjoyed working with computers, but he felt that he didn't have the right degree or job experience to switch careers.

"So I thought, if I go back to school for a master's degree, then I'd be exposed to the job market and I could network and meet people, and I could find a job and have a wonderful time."

He went for it.

A Georgia Tech graduate and friend of Leahy's working with the oilfield services company Schlumberger suggested that he call Peter Freeman, then-dean of the College of Computing.

"I call and get the person whose job it was to keep people from talking to Peter Freeman. I said, 'My friend from Schlumberger said I should call...' Immediately, I was put on the phone with Peter Freeman who told me to come down to campus," said Leahy.

Turns out, Schlumberger is a friend of the College. "I came down and met with a few

folks, and next thing I knew I was enrolled in the College."

Photo courtesy of College of Computing

Leahy started his M.S. program in January 1998 taking CS1, was hired as a paid TA shortly thereafter, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Evolving Georgia Tech Computing

Perhaps one of the biggest changes during Leahy's time at the College was the launch of its three schools and the introduction of the Threads curriculum about a decade ago.

With students moving on different tracks and professors now attached to the schools, the College also moved at this time to recognize the importance of the foundational work Leahy and his fellow lecturers and instructors were doing.

So, what started as the Foundations Group was soon elevated and became the Division of Computing Instruction in 2012. "At the time, we were an amorphous collective of people, non-tenure faculty — mostly with industry backgrounds — that just wanted to teach," said Lecturer David Smith.

"When Bill took the helm, he became our voice and our advocate with the College administration and the Institute," said Smith who was also one of Leahy's original instructors during his M.S. program.

Another big change he has seen is the mainstreaming of computer science.

"With so many more people being interested in CS, we've had to go through an exercise of, 'How do we handle very large classes with many, many students?' But we're figuring it out and maintaining very high standards along the way."

For Leahy, leveraging technology is the way to go.

"One of my former students — now an Online Master of Science in Computer Science (OMSCS) student — was so excited when she told me, 'The ability to rewind five minutes on a lecture is the most incredible thing.'

This ability for students to watch lectures at their own pace is a game-changer, as far as Leahy is concerned. "The time you free-up, you can spend with students in person or via some online tool, where they can ask individual questions and get individual answers.

"I'm not suggesting we need to put everyone in the same box. If someone prefers lectures, then we need to have lectures, but there are lots of opportunities to do cool stuff and find innovative ways to reduce class sizes," Leahy said. "We need to embrace technology and be leaders, not followers."

CLASSIFIEDS

VEHICLES

For Sale: 2010 Chevy Cobalt with 82,355 miles. Excellent condition. Good tires. \$5,000 OBO. Contact bdespy@hotmail.com, 770-377-7177.

For sale: Cool, classy 1990 Mercedes-Benz 560 SEL. Black exterior, leather interior. Runs great. Well maintained. All systems work: A/C, heated front and back seats, V8 engine. Mostly restored. Asking \$3.200. Call 918-500-6579.

REAL ESTATE/ ROOMMATES

Retired professor's 3BR/2BA hilltop home overlooking Atlanta Memorial Park in Buckhead. Close to jogging paths, playground, golf, tennis, Northwest BeltLine, and Morris Brandon Elem. school. 5.5 mi. from Tech campus. Available in October. \$3,200/mo. Contact vibhadesai@ hotmail.com, 404-563-5795.

Room available in 2BR/1BA apt. located 1.5 mi. north of campus. Rent \$550/month, electric typically \$30/mo., internet \$25/mo. Contact ztowner6@gatech.edu.

Beautiful 4BR/3BA house, 2,300 sq. ft., easy access to Emory/ CDC/Georgia Tech. Hardwood floors, open floor plan, many windows. 0.5 acres top-of-the-hill lot, trees/view. Sought-after Oak Grove Elementary School district. Wonderful neighborhood. Minutes to I-85/285, shops, restaurants. Contact pkeskinocak@gmail.com, 404-964-3978.

Affordable 2BR/1BA apt. in Buckhead/ Peachtree Hills. Spacious apartment, 5-min. walk to Lindbergh MARTA. Quiet garden community. \$1,500/ mo. including water, gas heat, cable. Furnishing available. Contact Matt, mqrentalproperty@gmail.com.

For rent: 1BR apartment w/ own bathroom and shared kitchen in Stone Mountain. \$500 plus utilities. Call 770-262-0566.

For rent: 2BR/1BA basement apartment in Johns Creek, North Fulton County. Exceptional neighborhood, close to GA-400, I-85, I-285. \$950/mo. rent only, or \$1,100/mo. rent and utilities (except AT&T internet). Contact jstarnes3@gatech.edu.

One or two rooms for rent in East Cobb. Each w/ its own bathroom. Shared kitchen facilities. \$450 for one room or \$600 for both. Email bdespy@hotmail.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

Free 9-week-old kittens. Two males and one female. The two males are black, female is gray. All have had first visit to vet. Contact pk2@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.