



The Whistle

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Deans Decided

Searches have ended for new leadership in the College of Computing and the College of Sciences.

Charles Isbell, professor and executive associate dean of the College of Computing, has been named the next dean and John P. Imlay Jr. Chair in the College of Computing, effective July 1.

Susan Lozier, Ronie-Richele Garcia-Johnson Distinguished Professor of Ocean Sciences at Duke University, has accepted the role of dean and Betsy Middleton and John Clark Sutherland Chair in the College of Sciences. She will officially assume the role no later than Oct. 1.

Read more at news.gatech.edu.



Charles Isbell



Susan Lozier

A DISTINGUISHED HONOR



Photo by Allison Carter

David McDowell has always sought to define his own path — and Georgia Tech felt like the place to do it.

McDowell Earns Top Institute Award

VICTOR ROGERS
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

David McDowell doesn't like being put in a box. That's one of the reasons why, after earning a doctoral degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, he headed south to begin his career at Georgia Tech.

"One thing that I didn't want was to go to a place where they had a slot for me to fit into: 'Professor X is retiring; we need to cover this slot. We see you

as a potential for that," McDowell said. "I wanted to define my own path, and I thought Georgia Tech would allow me to do that."

He said he wanted a place where he could exert his vision and leadership from an early stage.

"At the time — the late '70s and early '80s — Georgia Tech was a great educational institution, but not as highly rated in research as it is today," he said. "It was approaching the top 20-25 territory, and

see **MCDOWELL**, page 4



Photo by Allison Carter

Arborist Quentin Holden trims trees off of Techwood Drive. Holden specializes in determining the health of trees on Georgia Tech's campus.

A Surgeon of a Different Sort

VICTOR ROGERS
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Georgia Tech's campus has more than 13,000 trees. So, it makes sense to have a tree surgeon to aid in the care and feeding of such a large canopy. That's where Quentin Holden comes in.

Holden, certified as an arborist through the International Society of Arboriculture, is a tree

surgeon in Facilities. The job has a wide range of duties.

"I never do the same thing on a long-term basis," he said. "Yesterday I was pruning trees with a pole saw. A few days before that, I was climbing a tree and cutting limbs. At other times I'm putting out fertilizer or watering. It's very diverse and very interesting."

Holden's interest in trees and working outdoors stems from

childhood. His father owned a tree removal company, and when Holden was 13 he spent the summer helping his dad clear saplings from a client's property. The client had a lake on the property, and Holden was allowed to fish there.

"After that, I connected trees with fishing and the outdoors," he said. "It was a

see **HOLDEN**, page 3

NEWS BRIEFS



Mini-Mesters Being Offered for Fall Semester

The new class format emerged from the work of the Commission on Creating the Next in Education and A Path Forward — Together. Learn more at:

c.gatech.edu/mini



CEISMC Realigns with C21U

Following a detailed assessment, the organizational adjustment moves CEISMC out of its current structure within the College of Sciences. Read the full story at:

ceismc.gatech.edu



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EVENTS

ARTS AND CULTURE

April 17

The Georgia Tech Laptop Orchestra features works composed by ensemble members that turn mobile phones into new musical instruments, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in Room 175, West Village. music.gatech.edu

Through July 12

The Robert C. Williams Museum of Papermaking hosts two exhibits, *Postage Required* and *Marvelous Marbling*. The museum is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. paper.gatech.edu

WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING

April 17

The LGBTQIA Resource Center hosts a Safe Space training from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Register to attend at: lgbtqia.gatech.edu

April 19-20

The Office of Sponsored Programs hosts a course on *Budgeting, Budget Justification, and Templates* from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Research Administration Building Seminar Room. Register to attend at: training.osp.gatech.edu

April 23

Human Resources hosts a Be Well session on *Preparing for Home Ownership* from 11 a.m. to noon in Room 320, Student Center. Register to attend at: hr.gatech.edu/bewell

SEMINARS AND LECTURES

April 17

The School of Economics will host Gina McCarthy, former administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and director of the Center for Climate Health and the Global Environment at Harvard University, for a talk on *U.S. Environmental Policy and the Assault on Science* from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in the Student Center Theater. RSVP at: econ.gatech.edu

April 18

Health Initiatives hosts an advanced training session on *CliftonStrengths* from 11 a.m. to noon in Room 322, Student Center. Register to attend at: healthinitiatives.gatech.edu

EVENTS continued on page 3



Photo by Allison Carter

Performers and exhibitors at the 2018 Earth Day Festival.

Earth Day Comes to Campus Friday

DIANA TIERNAN
GEORGIA TECH RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Georgia Tech's annual Earth Day Festival will take place Friday, April 19, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Tech Walkway. The festival offers entertainment and fun, as well as practical resources. Here are a few reasons to attend:

Recycle Your Hard-to-Recycle Items

Old sneakers and electronics can be brought to the festival and dropped off for recycling. Shoes may be recycled at the Shoot the Shoes booth near the stage (no shoes with metal parts or cleats).

Electronics such as cell phones and computers will be accepted at the electronic recycling station.

Entertainment

The stage will be filled with entertainment throughout the festival, including live bands, karaoke, spoken word performances, and the presentation of the Environmental Leadership Awards.

Booths to Visit

Ninety groups and organizations have registered to have a booth at the Earth Day Festival. Explore the booths to learn about the variety of Earth-friendly activities happening on and

around campus.

Drives

Generous donations from the Georgia Tech community have stocked the clothing and office supply swaps. Bring your BuzzCard to partake in both opportunities.

Freebies

The Earth Day Festival will be sharing free organic popcorn and T-shirts with participants until supplies run out.

Volunteers Still Needed

It's not too late to volunteer. To sign up, visit earthday.gatech.edu/volunteer.

CRAFTING A SOLUTION



Photo by Alejandra Nash

Lisa Marks, assistant professor in the School of Industrial Design, won the Grand Prix at the Lexus Design Award Event during Milan Design Week in Milan, Italy, last week. Marks' algorithmic lace project design is a post-mastectomy, custom-crafted bra designed to avoid common bra discomforts after surgery. The competition received more than 1,500 entries from up-and-coming creators around the world aspiring to "Design for a Better Tomorrow." Read the full story about the project at design.gatech.edu.

FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Eva Lee, Virginia C. and Joseph C. Mello Chair and Professor in the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering, has been inducted into the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering College of Fellows. Lee is the first IE/OR engineer to be nominated and elected for this honor.

Ling-Ling Nie, general counsel and vice president for Ethics and Compliance, has been named the recipient of the Georgia Asian Pacific American Bar Association Women's Leadership Award. Nie will be honored at the 2019 Annual Gala at the Georgia Aquarium on May 30.

The Optical Society has named **Rick Trebino**, professor in the School of Physics, the recipient of the 2019 Esther Hoffman Beller Medal. Trebino is recognized for pioneering educational optics practices, including the only textbook on ultrashort-pulse measurement, innovative short courses, and the creation of high quality graduate and undergraduate optics lectures that are shared freely with students and instructors worldwide.

Kyriakos G. Vamvoudakis, assistant professor in the Daniel Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering, has been selected to receive a three-year, \$360,000 award under the Army Research Office's prestigious Young Investigator Program. The award is granted to promising young university faculty to support their research and teaching careers.

Z.L. Wang, Hightower Chair in the School of Materials Science and Engineering and Regents Professor, has been elected to the Korean Academy of Science and Technology (KAST). The KAST is South Korea's highest academy of science and serves as an integrated think tank for the country's science and technology.

Alenka Zajic, associate professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, has been selected for the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Atlanta Section Outstanding Engineer Award. Zajic will be presented with the award at the IEEE Atlanta Section Banquet on April 18.



Photo by Rob Felt

Ruilong Ma, a materials science and engineering graduate, delivers the student reflection speech at the Fall 2018 Commencement ceremony.

CELEBRATE COMMENCEMENT

Mark your calendars for graduation festivities coming to campus in just two weeks.

Ph.D. Ceremony

Friday, May 3
9 – 10:30 a.m.
McCamish Pavilion

Speaker: Bonnie Ferri, Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Faculty Development
Doors open at 8 a.m.
No tickets are required for this event.

President’s Graduation Celebration

Friday, May 3
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Tech Tower Lawn

Rain location: Student Center Ballroom

Master’s Ceremony

Friday, May 3
3 – 5:30 p.m.
McCamish Pavilion

Speaker: Sandra Magnus, Executive Director Emeritus of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
Doors open at 1:30 p.m.
No tickets are required for this event.

Bachelor’s Morning Ceremony

Saturday, May 4
9 – 11:30 a.m.
McCamish Pavilion

Speaker: The Honorable Geoff Duncan, Lieutenant Governor of Georgia
Will call opens at 7 a.m.
Doors open at 7:30 a.m.
Tickets are required.

Bachelor’s Afternoon Ceremony

Saturday, May 4
3 – 5:30 p.m.
McCamish Pavilion

Speaker: Gretchen Corbin, President and CEO, Georgia Lottery Corporation
Will call opens at 1 p.m.
Doors open at 1:30 p.m.
Tickets are required.

Complete event information is available at commencement.gatech.edu.

HOLDEN, from page 1

good experience.”

After graduating from Ridgeview High School (now Ridgeview Charter School) in Sandy Springs, Holden went to Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College to study forestry. He became homesick after a year, thinking forestry really wasn’t what he wanted to do.

“They were talking about working way out in the back country, and I wanted to be in a more urban setting,” he said. “There wasn’t much happening with urban forestry at the time. So, I came back to Atlanta and decided to study history at Georgia State University.”

Holden earned a degree in history in 1990. He worked in the corporate world for a few years before joining the Peace Corps in 1993 and going to Grenada to work as a junior forester. There he managed the building of trails in a national forest, surveyed an acre plot in the Grand Etang National Park, and managed a mahogany tree-planting site.

When he returned to the U.S., he got a job with AmeriCorps in their soil conservation program in the Clayton County Extension Office. He also went back to school at night to get certified to teach.

He put his love of trees on hold for 11 years while he taught geography, Georgia history, and world history to grades 8 through 10 at North Clayton High School and Decatur city schools. But the trees kept calling him. So, he studied to become certified as an arborist, which he achieved in 2000 while teaching.

“In 2008 I decided to take a jump from teaching history to get into doing what I love doing most — being an arborist and working outside,” he said. After working with Trees Atlanta for about six months, Holden operated his own tree planting business for three years before coming to Tech in 2012.



Photos by Allison Carter

Holden is pictured near the Mayer Garden on campus. Below, he collects remnants from a trimming in March, just before some of the trees begin to bloom for the season.



“I always liked Georgia Tech because my dad had gone to school here before being drafted into the Navy. We had a connection with Georgia Tech growing up,” he said.

Maintaining Healthy Trees

One of Holden’s favorite parts of his job is keeping the trees in good condition.

“I like climbing large trees and improving their health,” he said. “A lot of them have bounced back after we removed some dead wood and cleaned them up. It’s nice to see their health improve and to be a part of that.”

Even when being proactive and providing good care, sometimes a tree has to be removed for safety. Big Al, the massive oak tree that split last year, is one example.

“We’re very reluctant to remove large trees,” Holden said, “because even if it’s diseased a lot of people would be upset. We want to make sure we’re doing the right thing. Safety is the most important thing.”

Holden said they only remove a large tree if removal is the only option that will keep the campus and students safe.

“The main reasons to remove a tree is it’s either dead, dying, or diseased. If it were to fall on its own, it could harm someone, a vehicle, or other property. These are the things we look out for,” he said. “Before removing a tree, we have two outside arborists evaluate the tree to make sure that what I say is correct and to make their recommendations as well.”

Holden urges everyone on campus to be aware of work zones around trees.

“The caution tape is there for your safety. Limbs may be falling, so please don’t walk through the area,” he said.

Although Holden spends his days working on trees, he often takes time to appreciate their beauty.

“There’s a nice sycamore tree on the back side of the J.S. Coon Building,” he said. “In the winter it looks like a large bone because the bark flakes off.”

EVENTS

April 18

The LGBTQIA Resource Center hosts a Trans 101 training from 9:30 a.m. to noon. RSVP at: lgbtqia.gatech.edu

April 18

The 2019 Karlovitz Lecture will be delivered by best-selling author Sam Kean, discussing *The Periodic Table: A Treasure Trove of Passion, Adventure, Betrayal, and Obsession*, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Salon Four, Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center. periodictable.gatech.edu

April 19-20

Humanistic Perspectives at Technological Universities: A Symposium will feature experts from Georgia Tech and other universities discussing opportunities and challenges for humanities scholarship and education at institutions of higher learning primarily focused on science and technology research and education. The symposium takes place at the Renaissance Hotel Midtown. humantech.gatech.edu

MISCELLANEOUS

April 17

Staff Council hosts *Car-Free Commuting in Car-Centric Atlanta*. Learn about active and mixed-mode commuting and the reality and resources for car-free commuting, from noon to 1 p.m. in Room 321, Student Center. staffcouncil.gatech.edu

April 17

The Center for Teaching and Learning hosts TA and Future Faculty Awards Day from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in the Bill Moore Student Success Center. RSVP at: ctl.gatech.edu

April 18

Join the Institute for People and Technology for Industry Innovation Day from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at The Garage at Tech Square, 848 Spring Street NW. Register for free with code “yellowjacket” at: ipat.gatech.edu

April 22-23

Final Instructional Class Days for the Spring semester.

April 23

The ADVANCE Program hosts a Demystifying Georgia Tech event on A Path Forward — Together from 11 a.m. to noon. RSVP at: advance.gatech.edu

April 23

Georgia Tech Baseball faces in-state rival the University of Georgia at 7 p.m. at Suntrust Park. ramblinwreck.com

April 24

No classes will take place during Reading Day.

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

MCDOWELL, from page 1

I could see that people here had fire in their belly to make that happen. So, coming here was a pretty easy decision.”

That was in 1983. Now, 36 years later, McDowell, Regents Professor and Carter N. Paden Jr. Distinguished Chair in Metals Processing, will receive Georgia Tech's highest award given to a faculty member: the Class of 1934 Distinguished Professor Award.

The award recognizes outstanding achievement in teaching, research, and service. Instituted in 1984 by the Class of 1934 in observance of its 50th reunion, the award is presented to a professor who has made significant long-term contributions that have brought widespread recognition to the professor, to his or her school, and to the Institute.

“For me, this award is really a recognition of my being here,” McDowell said. “It shows that there's a trace of my contributions.”

He will leave much more than a trace.

Over the course of three and a half decades, McDowell has done groundbreaking research in developing new techniques and methods for measuring, understanding, and modeling the way materials behave and how to use this information to improve the performance of products that benefit everyday life in areas such as transportation and energy production. He has produced more than 500 published papers or book chapters as author or co-author (including more than 335 refereed journal articles), and more than 600 presentations. For 20 years he served as director of the Mechanical Properties Research Laboratory, a major university laboratory in experimental fatigue and fracture research. And, he is the founding executive director of the Institute for Materials, serving as a driver of the development and growth of materials research and education at Tech.

But he is proudest of advising or co-advising more than 30 master's students and 51 doctoral students through degree completion.

“What has kept me in the academic realm is my love for the development of students, and in particular graduate students, developing them as people and helping them realize their goals and dreams,” he said.

“That's an inspiration to be around people who have their future ahead of them, and they're trying to chart that path.

I'm helping them to do that by helping them refine the precision and creativity of their thinking. To me that's remarkable. That's what a professor does.”

In McDowell's view, “Professors have two major responsibilities. One is to develop and cultivate new ideas. The second is to

“David McDowell is my former Ph.D. advisor, which makes me very familiar with his accomplishments. He considers the mentoring of graduate students as both a key educational responsibility and perhaps the single endeavor with greatest impact at a research university. He was instrumental in my career in teaching the value of collaboration, pushing the boundaries of research innovation, articulating my vision in both written and oral communication, establishing myself as a leader in my research field, and mentoring others.”

— Samuel Graham Jr.

Eugene C. Gwaltney Jr. School Chair and Professor
George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering



Photo by Allison Carter

McDowell in his office at the Renewable Bioproducts Institute on 10th Street.

FACULTY AND STAFF HONORS LUNCHEON

McDowell will be honored at the 2019 Faculty and Staff Honors Luncheon on Friday, April 19. A full list of honorees will be shared in the next issue of *The Whistle*.

For more information, visit specialevents.gatech.edu/events/faculty-staff-honors.

Read more about McDowell at news.gatech.edu.



Photo by Rob Felt

Professor David McDowell and Rajesh Prasannavenkatsan, a former graduate student, 2009.

cultivate and develop people, specifically students that you help guide in the early stages of their career.”

He estimates that 33 percent of his former doctoral students are working in industry, 40 percent are in academia, and the rest have careers in government research labs.

Passing the Torch

McDowell observed that one advantage of being at Georgia Tech is its culture of going outside the boundaries of departments and schools and “getting

the job done.”

“One thing about Tech that's interesting to me is the interdisciplinary thinking going back to day one since I've been here,” he said. “In 1984 I was asked to become associate director of the Mechanical Properties Research Lab, a crosscutting materials research lab. I got to see the importance of fostering collaboration between academic units and colleges and breaking down barriers.”

McDowell pointed out that today it's relatively easy to have students being shared among

departments, and faculty collaborating among departments. In a way, Tech is leading the way in how research and education are conducted across academic disciplines.

The challenge is to create an environment where young people with good ideas can find support for their vision and their leadership.

“This is the next generation of leaders at Georgia Tech, and they will be steering us into the future,” he said. “Let's empower them. I want the same kind of empowerment for them that I had.”

CLASSIFIEDS

REAL ESTATE/ ROOMMATES

3BR/2BA house in the heart of Buckhead for rent. 15-minute drive to Tech. Walk to MARTA station, grocery stores, shopping/dining. Hardwood floors throughout. Fenced backyard. Zoned for award-winning Sarah Smith Elementary. Call 707-948-6778.

Looking for two female roommates to share beautiful 3BR/3.5BR townhome in convenient West Midtown location. Quiet street, great layout, nice finishes, fully furnished. Contact kat.craigslist9455@gmail.com.

Tech professors looking for responsible, non-smoking single person/couple (no pets) to live in independent, elegant, furnished 1BR w/ kitchen in bungalow extension in beautiful Morningside/Virginia-Highland. Walk to Piedmont Park, BeltLine, shops, etc. \$1,560/month. Contact alkacitrin@yahoo.com.

FSBO: 3/2 house in Kennesaw. 2-car garage, large parking pad. New HVAC, HardiePlank siding, real hardwoods, privacy fence, decks. Beautiful curb appeal. Back lawn ready for garden, greenhouse, pool. Contact 770-855-3803, atljdwy@yahoo.com.

Seeking roommate for Loring Heights home (1642 Loring Drive NW). \$1,250/mo., \$500 off first month's rent. Updated w/ cathedral ceilings, ceiling fans, spacious open floor plan. Fully furnished, great backyard. Private furnished bedroom w/ shared bathroom (share w/ one late-20s male). Seeking housemate who is respectful, friendly, clean. Contact Jason, jmetz.ny@gmail.com.

3BR/2BA peaceful, furnished waterfront cottage with a view located along the southern Outer Banks near Morehead City, North Carolina. Wi-Fi, A/C, W/D, several hammocks, 400' dock, boat slip. No smoking or pets. More info: vrbo.com/571844, jud.ready@gatech.edu.

For rent: 4BR/2BA Grant Park home, renovated w/ modern interior, approximately 5 miles from Tech campus. Quaint, safe neighborhood, close to Southeast BeltLine. Ideal for family w/ young kids. Can be rented w/ or w/o furniture. Contact dhari3@gatech.edu.

MISCELLANEOUS

2.6 cu. ft. Magic Chef compact refrigerator for sale, on campus. \$50 OBO. Contact pamaviga@outlook.com.

Light beige dining room table w/extra leaf, 6 chairs, china hutch. \$400 for all. Must pick up from Powder Springs. Pictures available. Contact swillis@gatech.edu.

CATEA is recruiting employees with disabilities (e.g., mobility impairments, hearing loss, learning disabilities, back pain), for a study of the impact of universal design in the workplace. Participants will be paid \$100 (as long as you complete the 1.5 hour study outside of work hours). More information is available at catea.gatech.edu/accessible-workplace-study.

Looking for a carpool partner for the daily commute from East Cobb to Tech campus. Email bdespy@hotmail.com.

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.