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# THE WHISTLE

FACULTY/STAFF NEWSPAPER

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THE GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

## Tech announces Athletic Association changes

**Bob Hart**  
*Institute Communications  
and Public Affairs*

President Wayne Clough and Athletic Director David Braine have initiated steps to address recent issues related to student-athlete academic performance. The changes were announced at a meeting of the board of directors of the Georgia Tech Athletic Association (excerpted below).

While the academic accomplishments of Georgia Tech student-athletes on average have steadily improved for the past four years, following this spring semester 11 student-athletes were declared ineligible, of whom 10 were football players. These players are required to sit out a term before returning to school.

Carole Moore, formerly director of academic services for the Athletic Association, will return to a full-time academic role at the Institute as a special assistant to the vice provost.

Clough praised Moore for significantly improving academic advising services in the Athletic Association during her tenure, evidenced by

improved graduation rates, higher grade point averages, and sustained academic progress for student-athletes (see In Brief, page 3).

"Georgia Tech owes Carole a large debt of gratitude for her long and dedicated service to the Institute and most recently for working hard on behalf of our student-athletes," said Clough.

Col. James Stevens, a Tech alumnus who is retiring from the U.S. Air Force after a 27-year career, will replace Moore. Stevens holds master's degrees in business administration and logistics and has been the professor of aerospace studies for the past three years, commanding Tech's Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps Detachment 165.

"We have asked Jim to visit a number of universities well known for the academic success of their student-athletes to see what we might learn

from their experience," said Clough, who is also a member of the NCAA Executive Committee. "There are a number of important academic changes on the horizon for student-athletes, and we want to



**Col. James Stevens**

ensure that we take advantage of best practices.

"Col. Stevens is keenly aware of our expectations and is ready to take a fresh approach to meeting them," he continued. "I'm confident that the excellent foundation provided by Dr. Moore and the new perspectives brought by Col. Stevens will yield positive results in the future."

As is currently the case, Academic Support Services will report to both the athletic director and the provost.

"In the end this is all about maximizing the potential of our student-athletes in the classroom and on the playing fields," said Clough. "That is, after all, our primary mission."

## Latest Supreme Court rulings present new opportunities for admission practices

**David Terraso**  
*Institute Communications  
and Public Affairs*

Last week the U.S. Supreme Court issued two major rulings concerning affirmative action on college campuses. In *Grutter v. Bollinger*, the court ruled that student body diversity is a compelling state interest and that universities may consider the race or ethnicity of candidates when making admissions decisions.

However, universities must make sure their affirmative action policies are narrowly tailored so they don't violate the Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protection Clause by establishing separate sets of rules for

applicants based on their race or ethnicity.

In *Gratz v. Bollinger*, the court ruled that the University of Michigan's undergraduate admissions policy in the College of Literature, Science and the Arts is not narrowly tailored and is unconstitutional. The policy, which measures candidates on a point system, "has the effect of making 'the factor of race ... decisive' for virtually every minimally qualified underrepresented minority applicant," wrote Chief Justice William Rehnquist in the majority opinion.

While the decisions are expected to have a huge impact on universities across the country, Georgia Tech

*Court continued, page 2*

## Police Department reports spike in automobile-related crimes

**Elizabeth Campell**  
*Institute Communications  
and Public Affairs*

Georgia Tech Police report a substantial increase in the number of car break-ins and auto thefts this year. During the first six months of this year, vehicle thefts increased 44.7 percent compared to the same period last year. Over the same period, vehicle break-ins increased 20.8 percent. Nearly half of the vehicle break-ins occurred in parking decks.

"We have focused our patrols on parking decks for several months and have arrested several people," said Teresa Crocker, director of Security and Police. "We believe the people responsible for these crimes are the same small group of individuals who find Georgia Tech as easy prey. We need assistance from the community in letting us know when they see people wandering around or acting suspicious — especially in parking decks. We will continue to place photographs on our Web site of persons

*Crime continued, page 3*

### On student-athlete support at Tech

"...I have always expected, and will continue to expect, that our coaches will work with academic support personnel in a coordinated fashion to ensure that student-athletes have the opportunity to meet the challenges of a Tech education and make steady progress toward graduation. I also expect our student-athletes to achieve at an academic level comparable to that of the average of the student body, including remaining on track for graduation."

"That is why our academic support services are so important. They are important to the performance of our athletes and they are important for the ultimate mission of the Institute. Credible and competent academic support enhances the experience of our student-athletes and upholds the rigorous academic excellence of Georgia Tech." —President Clough

### By the numbers

#### Jan. 1 - June 19, 2003:

55 stolen vehicles  
220 car break-ins

#### Jan. 1 - June 19, 2002:

38 stolen vehicles  
182 car break-ins

#### Most popular stolen vehicle:

Jeep Cherokee

#### Top locations of thefts:

Woodruff lots	10
Student Center Deck	4
O'Keefe lots	4

#### Top locations of break-ins:

Curran Deck	32
North Deck	24
Burge Deck	22
Student Center Deck	19
Peters Deck	7

## “QUOTE— UNQUOTE”

“We are all competing very hard for the best people.”  
—Jean-Lou Chameau, provost, on recent news that four top chemistry professors from the University of Arizona would be joining Georgia Tech. The head of UA’s chemistry department estimated that they would be bringing \$5 million in research funding with them.  
(Arizona Daily Star)

“The number one health problem in the United States is not SARS, it is not emerging infectious diseases or AIDS. It is the epidemic of obesity that we are watching unfold under our very eyes.”  
—Julie Gerberding, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, speaking at Tech’s graduate commencement ceremony in May.



### THE WHISTLE

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Institute Communications and Public Affairs  
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## Gardening at GEORGIA TECH

with Donna Chronic



Photos by Nicole Cappello

### Too much rain?

The abundance of rain and below-average temperatures may be a welcome change from Atlanta’s typically steamy summers, but that doesn’t mean gardeners can sit back and let nature take its course.

In fact, it’s created some unusual problems. The persistent rains have created a situation where the grass doesn’t have an opportunity to dry out. When that happens, molds and fungi begin to spread.

The most common diseases affecting lawns are Brown Patch and Dollar Spot, which can make healthy grass look dead and sickly virtually overnight. Fungi tend to prosper in warm, humid environments, and the period following a rainy few days is prime time for them to become active.

Trees are also susceptible. On campus, there has been a powdery mildew on new growth in both dogwoods and crepe myrtles.

While the best thing to combat such pests may be to hire a company to apply chemical treatments, there are several good commercial products on the market if you want to do it yourself. Just be sure to follow the instructions — doubling the dosage will not work twice as well — and limit chemical contact with the skin.

### Try this at home

Do you have a plant you’d like to put elsewhere around your home? Rather than purchasing a new one, try propagating your landscaping with a cutting taken from a parent plant.

When dealing with herbaceous plants — ones having no woody stems above ground — remove leaves from the lower half of the cuttings (shown above, right). Place in a glass of water and set on the windowsill until a system of roots begins to develop. Woody material, on the other hand, should be propagated with a rooting hormone (available at garden supply centers) and planted in a prepared soil. In this way, new plants may be formed with the same characteristics as the parent.

### Weeds

This should be an easy summer, for a change. But while the rain is good for our plants, it’s just as good for the weeds. Commercial weed killers work well, but spraying around your flowers may end up harming them, too. The best time to pull weeds is just after a good rain, when the softer ground makes it easier to extract stubborn root systems.

If irrigation becomes necessary, do it before and at daybreak — not in the evening or just after dark.

Donna Chronic is a horticulturist who has worked at Tech for the past 18 years.  
Do you have a question about gardening? Send it to [editor@icpa.gatech.edu](mailto:editor@icpa.gatech.edu).

### Court, cont’d from page 1

stopped factoring in the race or ethnicity of candidates for undergraduate admissions about 10 years ago. Instead, the Office of Undergraduate Admission has increased diversity on campus by targeting underrepresented minorities in its recruiting programs. Admissions officers travel all over the state and the country to meet with prospective minority students. They, along with alumni and current students, also call

prospective students, set up Internet chat rooms and hold special events for underrepresented minority students, all in an effort to show them what Tech has to offer.

“This approach is much more difficult than simply adding extra points for minority status, but it ensures that we are getting the best students possible,” said Ingrid Hayes, interim director of the Office of Undergraduate Admission.

So far, Tech has good results. For the past two out of three years, Tech has awarded bachelor’s degrees to

more African-American engineers than any university in the country.

#### For more information...

**Undergraduate Admission**  
[www.admission.gatech.edu](http://www.admission.gatech.edu)

**Graduate Admission**  
[www.grad.gatech.edu/admissions](http://www.grad.gatech.edu/admissions)

**U.S. Supreme Court**  
[www.supremecourtus.gov](http://www.supremecourtus.gov)

## Hicks named chair of School of Public Policy

*Elizabeth Campell  
Institute Communications  
and Public Affairs*

Georgia Tech has named Diana Hicks as the new chair of the School of Public Policy in Ivan Allen College effective September 1. Hicks brings significant experience in science and technology policy in both the academic and corporate research arenas. She fills the position currently held by Susan Cozzens, who plans to return to an active research agenda following a five-year tenure as school chair.

"Diana, in both her current research position and in her previous research, has focused on science policy, an area of strength in our School of Public Policy," says Dean Sue Rosser. "She enjoys respect from her peers and is widely acknowledged to be a significant science policy scholar with excellent academic credentials as well. I am confident she will raise the School's already strong profile in science and technology policy."

Hicks comes to Tech from CHI Research, a private intellectual property consulting firm where she has served as a senior policy analyst specializing in

science and technology policy. Prior to that, Hicks was on the faculty of the Science Policy Research Unit at the University of Sussex, a leading research university in the United Kingdom, where she taught graduate courses in science policy and sociology of science and directed a graduate program.



Diana Hicks

"I am excited to be joining a distinguished group of colleagues with international reputations in science and technology policy," said Hicks. "The School has thrived under Susan

Cozzens' leadership, and building on that momentum I hope to continue the School's leadership in the study of science and technology policy and to enhance the visibility of this nationally ranked program."

Her career has focused on analyzing large databases of patents and papers to address questions of broad interest at the intersection of science and technology. She has also examined whether there is evidence in patterns of patenting in the United States to suggest that new technology is changing the nature of innovation and its relationship to research. Recent work established that technology is most likely to build on high-quality, often basic, research.

Hicks received her bachelor's degree in physics from Grinnell College in Iowa. She then studied at the University of Sussex on a Fulbright Scholarship for her master's degree, later completing her doctorate there as well.

For more information...

School of Public Policy  
[www.spp.gatech.edu](http://www.spp.gatech.edu)

## Student team finishes fourth in National FutureTruck Competition

*Michael Hagearty  
Institute Communications  
and Public Affairs*

Returning from the Ford Michigan Proving Grounds in Romeo, Michigan, two weeks ago, a team of Georgia Tech students announced they had placed fourth overall during the 2003 FutureTruck Competition.

In claiming fourth place, the Tech team won three major events — in Acceleration, Customer Acceptability and Emissions — taking home five trophies and almost \$8,000 in prize money.

According to the team's faculty advisor, the final grade was diminished by low scores in

factors unrelated to their entry's performance.

"Even though (our entry) really performed better than any other powertrain, (the judges) were looking for designs that had some combination of a diesel engine, the use of an alternate fuel to gasoline and some aggressive weight reduction by replacing the stock steel frame," said Professor Jerry Meisel. "We more than met the competition's stated goals in actual operation, but had none of these unstated approaches in our design."

On the strength of the team's results, Meisel said he plans to approach private companies for some research support to further optimize

performance.

"One very good aspect of this year's FutureTruck Competition is that we have a superb vehicle to show and a great deal of actual data from all the dynamic events," he said.

FutureTruck challenges teams of students from 15 top North American university engineering departments to re-engineer a mid-size 2002 Ford Explorer to improve fuel economy and lower emissions while maintaining the safety, performance and comfort levels.

For more information...

FutureTruck Competition  
[www.futuretruck.org](http://www.futuretruck.org)

*Crime, cont'd from page 1*

arrested and/or wanted for particular crimes so our community is aware."

While campus police work to prevent these crimes, they also recommend several measures to help reduce the chances of

becoming a victim.

- Lock all doors and close all windows.
- Secure valuables — loose change, laptops, cell phones, electronics, etc. — in the trunk, glove box or out of view.
- Be alert for suspicious vehicles cruising the area and for suspicious people looking

through vehicle windows or walking in the parking area.

- Report suspicious activity to Campus Police immediately via an emergency telephone or by calling 894-2500.
- More information is available on the department's Web page: [www.police.gatech.edu](http://www.police.gatech.edu).

## IN BRIEF:

### Graduation rates earn Tech football an honorable mention

Georgia Tech was honored recently by the American Football Coaches Association as one of 31 institutions graduating 70 percent or more of their football players.

Others receiving recognition for a rate of 70 percent or better included: the University of Michigan, the University of Notre Dame, Purdue University, Tulane University, the University of Virginia and the University of Washington.

The overall graduation rate of the 102 division I-A schools that responded was 59 percent, 1 percent less than the previous year. The median graduation rate was 59 percent, compared to 61 percent last year and 58 percent the four previous years.

The study involves the freshman class from the academic year of 1997-98.

### DLPE forms search committee

A search committee has formed to interview candidates for the position of associate vice provost for Distance Learning and Professional Education.

The committee includes its chair, Dean Richard Meyer (Library and Information Center); Professor Tom Barnwell (School of Electrical and Computer Engineering); Principal Research Scientist Bill Holm (Georgia Tech Research Institute); Director Donna Llewellyn (Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning); and Professor Jim Foley (College of Computing).

Committee members are accepting applications for the associate vice provost position now, with review of applications set to begin July 15. Applicants are encouraged to read the job's criteria and a complete position description at [www.pe.gatech.edu/dlpesearch](http://www.pe.gatech.edu/dlpesearch).

The associate vice provost will be responsible for the educational components of Georgia Tech's distance learning and professional education programs, from development and promotion, to delivery and assessment.

### New essays for admissions

Freshman applicants to Georgia Tech who take the ACT will have to take the standardized test's optional writing component, beginning with the class entering in fall 2006. That's when Tech will scrap its current application essay in favor of those appearing on the new SAT I and ACT standardized tests.

"Sometimes we're not sure how much help a student received in writing the essay. Using the tests' writing components will level the playing field for all applicants and help us ensure that each student writes his or her own essay without any help," said Deborah Smith, associate vice provost for Enrollment Services.

Starting March 2005, the College Board will replace the current SAT I with a new version that includes a mandatory writing test, featuring an essay and multiple choice questions. The ACT will offer an optional essay beginning in the 2004-2005 academic year.

The essay helps Tech determine the quality of prospective students' writing skills and is used in choosing recipients of the President's Scholarship Program.

Other schools that will require standardized writing tests include Harvard University, the University of Notre Dame, Rice University, Pennsylvania State University, the University of Texas and the Ohio State University.