

Inside:

Robert Haley	2
Campus MovieFest	3
In Brief	3
Campus Events	4

THE WHISTLE

FACULTY/STAFF NEWSPAPER

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THE GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Committee updates faculty on focus areas for improved undergraduate experience

Final report due next month

Dan Treadaway
Institute Communications
and Public Affairs

Recent student and faculty focus on improving the undergraduate experience will culminate next month with the completion of a report by the Committee on Quality Undergraduate Education.

Committee member Bob McMath, vice provost for Undergraduate Studies, presented a draft version of the report to the Academic Senate at the group's April 20 meeting. The Committee plans to complete the final report in May and present it to the Executive Board over the summer.

McMath said the impetus for forming the Committee, empanelled by the Institute's Executive Board, stemmed from faculty discussions of how to address the issue of grade inflation. "That ultimately evolved into a discussion of how best to provide a high-quality education for our students," McMath said.

Key areas covered in the draft report include:

- Student-faculty interaction, teaching styles/methods, and course management (effective lecturing, creating rapport with students individually, improving preparation of teaching assistants, fostering closer interaction between faculty and their teaching assistants, and creation of unit-based faculty-student advisory boards for continual examination of unit issues);
- Curriculum (greater use of problem-based and experiential learning, better explanation of how general education requirements and major courses fit together as a comprehensive whole);
- Support for students outside the classroom (more broadly based academic advising that goes beyond satisfying course requirements to encompass career choices and other issues, more emphasis on identifying

and assisting students at risk, creating a central advising system to augment and support school- and college-based advising); and

- Physical infrastructure (teaching spaces and educational technologies that promote effective teaching and learning, more efficient utilization of teaching spaces, continued strengthening of the Library, construction of the Undergraduate Learning Center).

"Much of what we will be recommending is not revenue neutral," McMath said. "We are kidding ourselves if we think that we can make major improvements of this kind for free. Our final report will make recommendations about the resources that will be required." McMath said the Committee welcomes faculty and administrative input.

Following McMath's presentation, the Academic Senate heard a proposal from the Student Regulations Committee to swap the dates for course withdrawal and mid-term grade reports. "Under the current system," said Committee Chair Paul Benkeser, "information from the mid-term grade report comes too late to be useful in advising for the next semester and well after the final date to withdraw from a course." Benkeser noted that the Committee's research revealed that Tech's course withdrawal date comes much earlier in the term than that of most universities.

Under the new academic calendar, course withdrawal will be allowed until 50 percent of the term is completed. Mid-term grade reports will be renamed progress reports and will be submitted when 40 percent of the term has been completed.

Committee member Joseph Hughes noted that faculty concerns related to project-oriented classes have been addressed via a Registrar's Office policy that allows schools and colleges to "block" dropping from certain courses that are heavily project or team oriented.

The Senate unanimously approved the proposal, which becomes effective with summer term.

Senate continued, page 3

Undergraduate research on display

On a visit from Washington, D.C. earlier this month, staff members of Georgia's Congressional delegation were treated to several presentations made by undergraduate students engaged in academic research projects.

At right, senior mechanical engineering student Earl Lewis explained his work on a "hyperactive seat," which reduces the amount of vibration — and the physical ailments — experienced by operators of heavy machinery such as farming equipment.

Stressing the importance of greater student involvement in research activities, Bob McMath, vice provost for Undergraduate Studies, said that in addition to the experience gained and the leadership opportunities these projects provide, students "develop analytical and creative skills" outside the classroom.



Photo by Nicole Cappello

Two students named as Goldwater Scholars

David Terraso
Institute Communications
and Public Affairs

Two Georgia Tech roommates are winners of this year's prestigious Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship. Mathematics major Thomas Callaghan and Materials Science and Engineering student Mark Oliver will both receive up to \$7,500 for next year's tuition, fees and room and board at Tech.

The pair met the summer before their freshman year at a retreat for President's Scholarship winners and lived down the hall from each other that first year. They've been friends ever since. "We joke that we're going to go to Stanford together, although Mark has been getting more interested in Berkeley lately," said Callaghan.

Being so close, it was a bit intimidating applying for the same

scholarship, said Callaghan. "I was kind of scared that I had to compete against him," he said. Mark, however, was a bit bolder. "I was confident that we'd both get the Georgia Tech nomination," he replied. They both agreed that Tech's emphasis on undergraduate research has been key to their success.

Oliver has been busy researching composite materials for the next generation of space vehicles in Materials Science and Engineering Professor Steven Johnson's lab. Using plastics reinforced with carbon fibers instead of metal saves a lot of weight, but the trick is that they have to perform well in extreme conditions. "We're studying how the materials perform at cryogenic and elevated temperatures," he said.

Johnson said Oliver has been a

Goldwater continued, page 2

QUOTE

"Nothing is going to affect my decision in November."
—Daniel Rocco, a graduate student in computer science, on the spate of books published in recent months that raise questions about the U.S. administration's decisions concerning the War on Terror. (Atlanta Journal-Constitution)

"\$4.5 billion doesn't really go that far in terms of solving regional congestion issues."
—Michael Meyer, a professor in the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, on Gov. Sonny Purdue's plan to borrow money for his transportation package. Critics contend the plan is a short-term solution in the face of continued sprawl and land overdevelopment. (Atlanta Journal-Constitution)

Haley assumes presidency of local 100 Black Men

Megan McRaney
Institute Communications
and Public Affairs

Robert Haley, who has guided Georgia Tech's diversity programs since 1992, will now lead another organization focused on minority education and mentoring.

Haley has been sworn in as president of 100 Black Men of Atlanta, a group of influential Atlantans who act as mentors to some of the city's youth, with a particular emphasis on education.

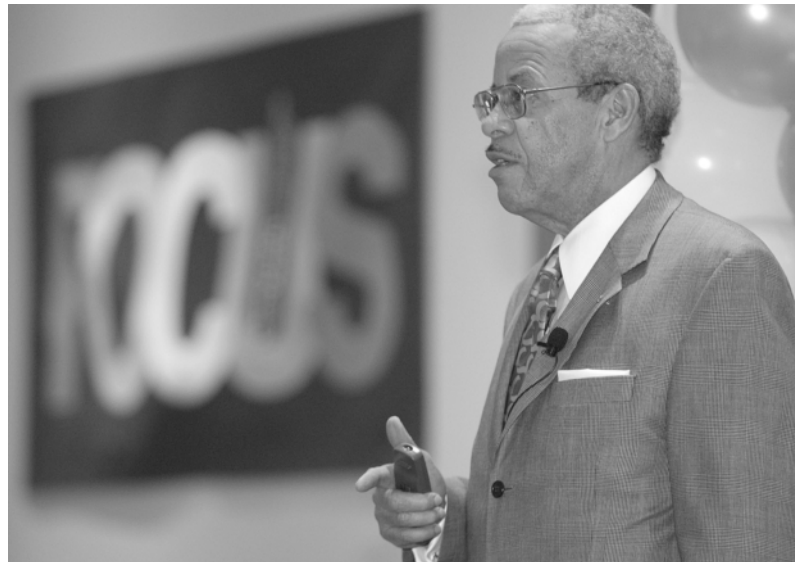
Haley, who is a special assistant to the president and director of Special Projects at Georgia Tech, was inducted at 100 Black Men of Atlanta's President's Dinner April 22. He will serve as president for two years.

"It is truly an honor to be president of 100 Black Men of Atlanta and to follow such a long line of distinguished gentlemen who have led this organization," he said.

One of his first priorities as president will be exploring the possibility of creating an all-male, charter elementary school in Atlanta.

100 Black Men of Atlanta, which was founded in 1986, also plans to expand its signature program, Project Success, to adopt a larger number of students into the program, Haley said.

"I am going to honor our deepest commitment to education. It is grounded in our history and our strategic mission," he said.



Robert Haley directs FOCUS, Georgia Tech's minority recruitment program held annually during the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend. His tenure as president of 100 Black Men of Atlanta will run two years.

Before coming to Georgia Tech, Haley served in the U.S. Army, was honorably discharged as a first lieutenant and had a successful 25-year career at IBM.

Haley joined Georgia Tech in 1992 to help coordinate diversity programs in engineering. Since then, he has overseen FOCUS, Tech's minority recruitment program held each year during Martin Luther King Jr. weekend. The program attracts more than 300 African-American undergraduate students from across the country to

learn about graduate degree programs. Currently, Georgia Tech is ranked first in the number of master's and doctoral degrees in engineering granted to African-Americans, according to Black Issues in Higher Education.

But Haley said he couldn't have done it alone.

"I attribute my success at Georgia Tech and the FOCUS program to the support that I have received from our president, Wayne Clough, and our provost, Jean-Lou Chameau," he said.



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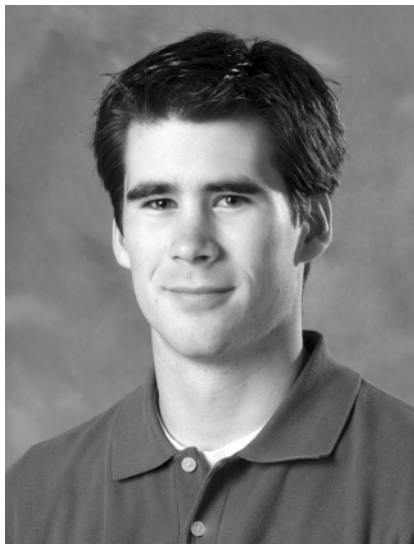
Goldwater, cont'd from page 1

vital part of his lab team. "He's very enthusiastic about aerospace materials. He's done very good research as an undergraduate and really wants to understand how things work."

Callaghan has been busy conducting research with Mathematics Assistant Professor Peter Mucha. The two were puzzled by college football's Bowl Championship Series (BCS) ranking system and wondered if a bunch of simulated monkeys could rank the top teams at least as well as the expert coaches, professional sportswriters and the BCS system. Together with Visiting Assistant Professor Mason Porter, they tested their theory through a mathematical formula and produced results mirroring those of the experts. The project was profiled in media outlets such as Nature, ESPN magazine and CNN Headline News. Mucha credited Callaghan's initiative and hard work for the project's success.

Callaghan said he's drawn to math because it's the foundation for a wide range of disciplines. "I like knowing why things work. Math is the language of problem solving. All of physics, chemistry and engineering are based on math."

Both said they plan to continue pursuing undergraduate research



Thomas Callaghan



Mark Oliver

next year. They will be roommates once again.

This year the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation awarded 310 scholarships out of a field of 1,113 applicants from the United States and Puerto Rico. The Scholarship Program, honoring former Arizona Senator Barry M. Goldwater, was designed to foster and encourage outstanding students to pursue careers in the fields of mathematics, the natural sciences and engineering.

For more information...

**Composites Education and
Research Center**

www.cerc.gatech.edu

Monkey Math

www.math.gatech.edu/~muchu/BCS

Students try their hand as auteurs



Tech student Christina Morton shoots a scene during spring semester for her team's Campus MovieFest submission, a music video shot to a cover of "Girls & Boys" by Blur.

Morton, a Tech freshman majoring in international affairs, was among 500 students on about 70 teams that signed up to create entries for this year's Campus MovieFest, sponsored by Delta Air Lines. They shot their five-minute films during the week of March 15, with each film revolving around the theme "Lift the World." Delta provided students with all of the technology and training to shoot their submissions.

"It's really a project that tries to create community among the students," said Crit Stuart, associate director of the Library and Information Center and faculty advisor to the Campus MovieFest group.

Student teams from eight Atlanta-area universities submitted entries. During an April 19 gala at the Fox Theater, a team from Georgia Tech earned the 2004 Platinum Award for first place. Their film, "Diametric," shows how imagination lifts the world and that going in the opposing direction is sometimes necessary.

Retired International Student Services and Programs Director Miller Templeton stars as "a sort of god-like homeless man," Stuart said. He called "Diametric" extraordinary.

In addition to a keepsake trophy, the entire team will receive a three-day trip to Hollywood, courtesy of Delta.

To see the winning entry, visit www.campusmoviefest.com. For more information on Tech's MovieFest group, visit imoviefest.gatech.edu.

IN BRIEF:

Upgrade of HR system nears completion

The process of converting to a new Web-based Human Resources system is scheduled to be completed on April 30. An e-mail will be distributed to all users of the HR system as soon as the system is available. The Georgia Tech Administrative Services Center (GTASC) home page, www.gtasc.gatech.edu, will provide a link to the new system, HRMS 8.8. A valid GT Account user ID and password must be specified to access the system.

Complete information about the upgrade is maintained on the System 2000 Upgrade Information Web site, www.trainsweb.gatech.edu/HR/Upgrade%20Info%20Center.htm. If you have any questions about the upgrade, e-mail kara.tillman@success.gatech.edu.

May honored by ASEE

The American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) has given its 2004 ASEE Minorities in Engineering Award to Gary May, executive assistant to the president and Motorola Foundation Professor of Microelectronics in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

The award will be presented at ASEE's Annual Awards Banquet on June 23 in Salt Lake City.

May is also chair of the National Advisory Board of the National Society of Black Engineers.



Library exhibit looks at ads aimed at Tech students

The Library and Information Center's Archives and Special Collections have put together a new Web exhibit that provides a unique insight into the lives of Georgia Tech students — courtesy of the companies that advertised to them.

The Web resource, called "Georgia Tech Advertisements," displays various ads printed during the first half of the 20th century that have been selected from such student publications as the Blueprint, T-Book, The Technique and many others.

To access the collection, visit www.library.gatech.edu/archives/ads/index.htm. E-mail archives@library.gatech.edu with any questions or comments.

Senate, cont'd from page 1

In other business:

- Registrar Jo McIver reported that 2,567 students are degree candidates for May 1 Commencement, an increase of 9 percent over last spring. That number, an Institute record, includes 1,456 bachelor's students, 836 master's students and 275 Ph.D. students.
- The Senate heard a second reading of proposed changes to the Faculty Statutes and Bylaws designed to meet SACS accreditation requirements. The changes, which were unanimously approved, dealt largely with requirements to publish

student learning outcomes for individual degree programs and to demonstrate progress in achieving those outcomes.

- The Senate approved proposals from the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee that include the creation of a joint Computing-Electrical and Computer Engineering Certificate in Information Assurance, International Affairs Certificates in Latin American Studies and European Union Studies, a minor in Computer Science, and a joint Computing-Literature, Communication and Culture undergraduate major in Computational Media. The Senate also approved proposals from the Graduate Curriculum

Committee to create a distance learning master's degree in Aerospace Engineering and a Ph.D. program in Human-Centered Computing. New degree programs must receive Board of Regents approval in addition to Academic Senate approval.

For more information...

Faculty Assemblies and Committees
www.facultysenate.gatech.edu

Academic Calendar
www.registrar.gatech.edu/calendar.htm

www.applyparking.gatech.edu

Parking on the Web

Apply for Parking April 15 - June 30



CAMPUS EVENTS

Arts & Culture

Apr. 30

The Ferst Center for the Arts welcomes classical pianist Awadagin Pratt, at 8 p.m. Faculty and staff are eligible for a 10 percent discount. For tickets, call 894-9600.

May 1

The Ferst Center for the Arts hosts an evening of jazz music featuring Freddy Cole and Paula West, at 8 p.m. Faculty and staff are eligible for a 10 percent discount. For tickets, call 894-9600.

May 7-8

The Ferst Center for the Arts hosts two nights featuring the Atlanta Ballet, at 8 p.m. Faculty and staff are eligible for a 10 percent discount. For tickets, call 894-9600.

Brown Bags/Conferences/Lectures

Apr. 29

The School of Industrial and Systems Engineering's Natural Systems Speaker Series welcomes Karl Henrik Robert, founder of The Natural Step and author of "The Natural Step Story: Seeding A Quiet Revolution," at 5:30 p.m. in the Ferst Center for the Arts.

May 11-12

The Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Mobile Wireless Technologies for Persons with Disabilities (Wireless RERC) is hosting its

international conference on the State of Mobile Wireless Technology for Persons with Disabilities. The conference will be held at the GCATT building and is jointly sponsored by The National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and the National Center for Dissemination of Disability Research. For more information, visit www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu.

Faculty/Staff Development

Apr. 30

The Office of Organizational Development hosts a free brown bag called "Thinking About Going Back to School?" Deborah Covin Wilson, director of Career Development, will provide an overview of educational opportunities for employees, at 11:30 a.m. in room 308, Savant Building. To register, visit www.trainsweb.gatech.edu/mastcal.

May 4

The Office of Organizational Development hosts a free brown bag on "Engineering a Poem," featuring Professor Thomas Lux, at 11:30 a.m. in room 308, Savant Building. To register, visit www.trainsweb.gatech.edu/mastcal.

May 6

The Office of Organizational Development sponsors a one-day seminar on "Polishing Your Presentation Skills," beginning at 8:30 a.m. in room 308, Savant Building. To register, visit www.trainsweb.gatech.edu/mastcal.

May 12

The Office of Organizational Development hosts a free brown bag called "Fish!" on how to bring more energy and passion to your work place, at 11:30 a.m. in room 308, Savant Building. To register, visit www.trainsweb.gatech.edu/mastcal.

Miscellaneous

Apr. 28

The Georgia Tech Women's Alumni Network welcomes Lara O'Conner Hodgson on "The Power of Creative Thinking," from 7:30 - 9 a.m. in the Alumni Faculty House. Registration fee includes breakfast. For more information, visit www.gtalumni.org/women.

May 1

The undergraduate commencement ceremony, featuring keynote speaker Gov. Sonny Perdue, begins at 9 a.m. The master's and doctoral ceremony, with keynote speaker John Brooks Slaughter, begins at 3 p.m. For more information, visit www.gatech.edu/commencement.

May 14

A Fidelity representative will be on campus conducting confidential consultations concerning planning for retirement. To arrange a meeting, call 800-642-7131.

Faculty and staff should send calendar items for events to editor@icpa.gatech.edu when available.

CLASSIFIEDS

APPLIANCES

Roper large capacity electric clothes dryer, beige color, new heating element, excellent condition, asking \$150. Call 404-379-9730 or e-mail juststrong@excite.com.

AUTOMOBILES

1988 Chevrolet Blazer. Red, 2-door, automatic, PW, PL, CD player. Clean title. \$1,000 OBO. Call 404-219-2204.

1991 Chevrolet Cavalier. Black, 2-door. Must sell. \$800 OBO. Call 404-219-2204.

1997 Geo Prizm. Automatic, beige leather interior, dual front air bags, CD player, 4-cylinder, 83K miles, \$3,750. Call Robert, 678-641-2380.

COMPUTERS

Garmin GPS III global positioning system receiver. High-resolution grayscale display. Includes manual, auto dash mount and auto power cord. Uses 4AA batteries. Original cost \$390 in 1997. Good condition. Asking \$99. Call Robert, 770-365-9440.

FURNITURE

Steel daybed. Black and sturdy with mattress, like new. \$150. Call 770-469-8220.

Matching dining room set (table, 6 chairs & china cabinet), \$850 OBO. China cabinet, \$500 OBO. Antique mahogany buffet, \$250 OBO. See <http://forsale.belfords.com> or call 894-6174.

Contemporary wooden coffee table; rich brown/black finish with storage shelf, \$225. Modern, brushed steel, three-seater dining table; glass table-top, \$400. Call 678-596-8813 for details/photos.

Queen-size oak waterbed frame, headboard and mattress with matching chest and dresser with mirror, \$300. Call 385-0042 or e-mail chris.hamlin@oit.gatech.edu.

Moving sale: oak living room furniture w/lamps, \$400; oak dining room table w/chairs, \$100; book shelves, \$100; beveled glass breakfast table w/chairs, \$300; cherry bedroom suite, queen size, perfect condition, \$2,500. Will deliver. Call 678-232-3475 or e-mail david.gifford@gti.gatech.edu.

REAL ESTATE/ROOMMATES

2BR/1BA Buckhead townhome for sale. Huge master w/2 closets, hardwoods, new bathroom, roommate floorplan, loads of upgrades! End unit on wooded lot. Six miles from campus, \$155,900. Call 894-0766.

2BR/1BA home in historic Berkeley Park. Minutes from Midtown and Tech. Washer, dryer, dishwasher, hardwood floors. Big kitchen. Fenced yard. \$1,000/month. 1616 Tallulah Street. Call 404-432-4406.

4BR/2BA home in historic Berkeley Park. Minutes from Midtown and Tech. Washer, dryer, dishwasher, hardwood floors. Fenced yard. \$1,600/month. 754 Antone Street. Call 404-432-4406.

2BR/2BA condo in Buckhead: 17th floor, 24-hour concierge, fitness center and swimming pool, assigned parking. Upgrades include Brazilian cherry wood floor, Corian countertops. Priced at \$215,000. Motivated! Call 404-931-9922.

3BR/1.5BA condo for sale in Marietta, large bdrms, nice patio. \$78,000. Off Hwy. 41, close to I-75, Cumberland Mall, 20 minutes to GT, 5 minutes to Life College. Quiet community w/pool, good schools. Call Beverly 678-581-9701.

1BR/1BA in Midtown, 1 mile from campus. Sunny, spacious, quiet neighborhood near park. Washer/dryer, dishwasher, fireplace, balcony, huge closets, parking, pool, gated community. \$825/month, available immediately. Call 894-9165 or e-mail michele.gordon@oie.gatech.edu.

SPORTS/FITNESS/RECREATION

Men's/women's bicycle, 27-inch, 7-speed, like new Pacific, \$75 OBO. Call 894-3646 or e-mail william.robinson@gti.gatech.edu.

MISCELLANEOUS

1977 Kawasaki KE100 motorcycle. Only 953 miles, trail and street legal bike. It has high fender flaps but also lights, blinkers, etc. \$400. Call 894-7185 or e-mail aist26gt@earthlink.net.

Spa bathtub, 5 ft. x 5 ft. corner unit, white, with fixtures. 60x32 interior dimensions. \$200 OBO. E-mail allison@cc.gatech.edu or call 385-0595.

2004 Honda 599 "Naked" street-bike. 600cc asphalt black/gray. This is a brand new bike. Must sell, baby on the way. \$6,250 firm. For more information, e-mail sean.porter@ce.gatech.edu or call 678-895-8096.

Ads will run for a maximum of three weeks in the order in which they are received. The Whistle reserves the right to edit ads longer than 30 words.