THE Whistle

Georgia Tech

NEWS BRIEFS

Help Plan Next Year's Earth Day Celebration

Earth Day at Georgia Tech is one of the largest festivals of its kind in the southeast, and the planning committee for the 2015 event is seeking help from faculty and staff members. To participate, contact Cindy Jackson at:
cindy.jackson@facilities.gatech.edu

Tech Affirms Campus Accessibility

Georgia Tech recently reaffirmed its commitment to being an accessible place for those with disabilities in a new Accessibility Statement. Departments can echo this affirmation by making their websites accessible as well. To read the statement and learn more about accessibility at Tech, including how to add an "accessibility" link to your website, visit:
gatech.edu/accessibility

SACSCOC Compliance Self-Study Completed

Next step will be March on-site visit

VICTOR ROGERS
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Last week, Georgia Tech submitted its self-study of compliance certification as part of the process for reaffirmation of accreditation. The self-study, which examines about 90 core requirements and principles over the entire spectrum of activities on campus, is required by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), the regional body for the accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions in the nation's southern states.

The self-study, led by a Compliance Steering Committee comprised primarily of campus administrators and managers, is the process through which the Institute reviews its policies, procedures, and programs. The compliance certification is an opportunity for Tech to identify institutional weaknesses or problems and correct them, according to Catherine Murray-Rust, vice provost for Learning Excellence, dean of Libraries, and Tech's SACSCOC accreditation liaison responsible for overseeing the reaffirmation process.

"The SACSCOC Reaffirmation is very important for Georgia Tech," said Rafael L. Bras, provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs. "It offers us the opportunity for introspection, to identify areas we can improve, and to showcase to peers all the wonderful things we do. I want to take the opportunity to thank the individuals in every corner of the Institute for their great work in producing the self-study. I have no doubt that the quality of Georgia Tech will again be evident to all."

Rafael L. Bras

The self-study will be evaluated by a team of reviewers from other institutions and SACSCOC. There will be an opportunity to respond to any comments. The report evaluation will be followed by an on-site visit by a team of individuals from peer institutions.

The kickoff for the 10-year reaffirmation of Tech's accreditation began in June 2013. The process will continue through the end of 2015, with the on-site visit scheduled for March 2015.

Georgia Tech's self-study report to

Catherine Murray-Rust

Student Startup Keeps Cars 'FIXD'

Photo by Rob Felt

A student-developed app will soon help drivers diagnose the problems behind the glow of the dashboard "check engine" light. FIXD, which recently achieved its Kickstarter goal of raising $30,000, plugs into a car's diagnostics port, just underneath the steering wheel, and connects to a driver's smartphone via Bluetooth. It explains the cause for the check engine light, diagnoses the seriousness of the problem, and provides repair estimes. The sensor also delivers updates when the car needs regular maintenance. Above, co-founders Rachel Ford, a biomedical engineering student, and John Gattuso, a mechanical engineering student, explore the features of the app.

Sexual Violence Task Force Finalizes Report

KRISTEN BAILEY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

The Sexual Violence Task Force finalized its report for President G.P. "Bud" Peterson last week, issuing a set of recommendations for improving prevention, education, response, and survivor support related to sexual violence on campus.

Peterson convened the task force in April in response to a white paper drafted by three female Tech students who conveyed their concerns about the campus climate around sexual assault. The group made up of students, faculty, and staff met throughout the summer to research current programming and processes, movement around sexual violence on a national level, and to recommend where Tech should go from here.

"When we started looking at this issue, I was struck by the stories from former and current students who shared the details of their sexual assault," said Lynn Durham, assistant vice president and chief of staff in the Office of the President, who chaired the task force. "Reading statistics is helpful, but truly knowing the impact to the victims is painful but motivating. I am eager to bring the conversation into the open so we can help more students."

Among the recommendations and suggestions is a call for mandatory education on sexual violence for all incoming students, faculty, and staff. The mandatory education would provide baseline knowledge, with more in-depth training

Peterson to Co-Chair Safety Committee

INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

At its monthly meeting on Sept. 9, University System of Georgia (USG) Chancellor Hank Huckaby announced a new Campus Safety and Security Committee, appointing President G.P. "Bud" Peterson as co-chair.

The committee will convene over the next year to review USG policies and procedures related to safety on its 31 campuses and develop recommendations

Through Sept. 21
The Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum hosts the cultural exhibition *KONGO across the WATERS*, part of Africa Atlanta 2014.
africaatlanta.org

Through Dec. 12
The American Museum of Papermaking sponsors the exhibition *Selections from Hand Papermaking Journal's Portfolios*, weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.
ipst.gatech.edu/amp

September 26
The Robert Glasper Experiment, comprised of American jazz pianist and record producer Robert Glasper, drummer Mark Colenburg, saxophonist/vocalist Casey Benjamin, and bassist Derrick Hodge, performs at 8 p.m., Ferst Center for the Arts. Discounted tickets available.
ferstcenter.gatech.edu

SEMINARS & LECTURES

September 17
The Sports, Society, and Technology program hosts "FIFA Brazil World Cup Retrospective: Social, Political, and Economic Legacies" at 3:15 p.m., Clary Theater, Student Success Center.
c.gatech.edu/fifapanel

September 18
In this Physics of Sustainability talk, Peter Littlewood of Argonne National Laboratory gives a physicist's perspective on global energy and sustainability challenges from 3:30–4:30 p.m. Room 1116, Marcus Nanotechnology Building. Free.

September 30
The Center for International Strategy, Technology, and Policy hosts Rose Gottemoeller, Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security for the U.S. State Department. Gottemoeller advises the Secretary on arms control, nonproliferation, and disarmament at 11:30 a.m. Gordy Room, Wardlaw Center. Free.

TRAINING

September 18
This class on Writing a Literature Review demystifies the literature review process, giving a step-by-step overview and tips on identifying, evaluating, and organizing information at 11 a.m. Library. Free. Register at:
c.gatech.edu/litreviewsept18

Campus News

FERPA Outlines Student Info Privacy Rights

Top 5 things faculty and staff should know

RACHAEL POCKLINGTON
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) protects what student information can be shared, including grades.

With the fall semester well underway, parents are often anxious to learn how their student is performing. If a parent contacted you about a student's grades, would you know how to handle the situation?

"Student education records are protected under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act — known to most as FERPA," said Georgia Tech Registrar Reta Pikowsky. "Taking a moment to familiarize yourself with this legislation can go a long way in helping you and the Institute avoid problems down the road."

Here are the top five things that every faculty and staff member should know about this federal law:

1. FERPA gives students rights.
Under the law, students have the right to: inspect and review their education records; to request an amendment to their records if they think something is inaccurate or misleading; to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in their records; and to file a complaint with the Department of Education regarding FERPA noncompliance.

2. Each institution is unique.
Colleges and universities have not implemented FERPA in the same way. For example, under FERPA, institutions are allowed to have their own definition of "directory information." What is considered "directory" or "public" information at one institution can be different at another.

3. Certain student information should never be shared.
At Tech, there are some kinds of information you should never provide without student permission including student ID numbers, citizenship, gender, ethnicity, religious preferences, grades, GPAs, and daily class schedules. Since these things are not defined as "directory information" at Tech, they can't be shared without permission.

4. Records are protected from the get-go.
This means student records are protected by FERPA as soon as an admitted student registers for classes, and, under Tech policy, as soon as a student applies for admission.

5. When in doubt, don't give it out.
If you have FERPA questions or concerns, contact Pikowsky's office at 404-894-4181.

Ultimately, the best method for a parent to understand a student's grades is to communicate with the student. If a parent persists, a student can print an unofficial transcript at any time and may request that an official transcript be sent to his or her parents.

Read the full scope of how FERPA is applied at Georgia Tech at:

c.gatech.edu/ferpa

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or programming offered to subsets of people who may act as first responders in an incident. Several bills being considered by Congress also call for mandatory education.

The report also recommends the establishment of an office within the Division of Student Affairs to address issues related to sexual violence. In the current structure, these issues are addressed by the VOICE initiative, a collaborative effort between the Women's Resource Center and Stamps Health Services. Developing a dedicated office would provide defined leadership and more resources for long-term planning. This idea is being explored in conjunction with a wellness initiative that is part of the recommendations of the Mental Health Task Force; $150,000 in funding has already been allocated to the wellness initiative.

Additionally, according to the task force report, the implementation of a recurring Sexual Violence Survey would aid in continuing to identify and measure the campus climate around sexual assault, and would be in line with what has been requested and could soon be mandated by the White House. The survey is part of a larger White House

task force and initiative around preventing sexual assault on college campuses and the development of notalone.gov. Senator Claire McCaskill has introduced legislation to toughen sanctions for schools that fail to report sexual assaults.

In the meantime, Tech updated its sexual misconduct policy in April, putting emphasis on ensuring transparency in reporting and adjudication, minimizing barriers that may prevent survivors from reporting sexual misconduct, defining consent, and a new provision of first-considered sanctions for

policy violations.

Members of the task force included male and female students, both undergraduate and graduate, and faculty and staff from the Office of Human Resources; Women's Resource Center; School of History, Technology, and Society; Office of the President; Office of Legal Affairs; Stamps Health Services; Department of Housing; Georgia Tech Police Department; Greek Affairs; Counseling Center; Office of Student Integrity; Industrial and Systems Engineering; Enterprise Risk Management; and Office of the Provost.

Other Sexual Violence Task Force Recommendations

- Develop a funded sexual violence prevention program to engage men.
- Develop a system for anonymous reporting of sexual violence.
- Develop a comprehensive on-call crisis response system.
- Position the Sexual Violence Prevention Alliance as a group to work directly with the proposed Sexual Violence Prevention Center.
- Create a standard protocol or policy for survivor accommodations.

- Sponsor multiple coordinated annual campuswide media campaigns to raise awareness about issues related to sexual violence on campus.
- Create a working group, led by the Office of Human Resources, to draft changes to the Anti-Harrassment Policy.
- Form an inclusive and diverse SGA-led student subcommittee to provide feedback on implementation of these recommendations.
- Establish a Sexual Assault Response Team.

Campus News

Four Faculty Members Earn Regents Titles

INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Four Georgia Tech faculty members have been recognized by the Board of Regents for exceptional contributions in education and research.
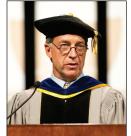
A Regents Professor and Regents Researcher title represents the highest academic and research status bestowed by the University System of Georgia. It is meant to recognize a substantial, significant, and ongoing record of scholarly achievement that has earned high national esteem over a sustained period.

Two academic faculty members were named as Regents Professors:

• **Mark Hay**, professor in the School of Biology, and

• **Dimitri Mavris**, director of the Aerospace Systems Design Laboratory and professor in the School of Aerospace Engineering.

Two research faculty members were granted the title of Regents Researcher:

• **Helena Mitchell**, executive director of the Center for Advanced Communications Policy

Mark Hay **Dimitri Mavris** **Helena Mitchell** **Lora Weiss**

and principal research scientist in the School of Public Policy, and

• **Lora Weiss**, principal research engineer and chief scientist, Georgia Tech Research Institute.

"These individuals are among the finest scholars in the nation," said Provost Rafael L. Bras. "They represent preeminence in scholarship and research, which, in turn, has important implications for Georgia Tech and for the economic success of the state. Most importantly, it is our students who benefit from the experience of being taught, advised, and mentored by these outstanding faculty."

Nominations are the result of a unanimous recommendation from the president, provost, executive vice president for research, a faculty committee, and college deans.

"They have made tremendous contributions to the research, education, and economic development missions of Georgia Tech," added Executive Vice President for Research Stephen E. Cross. "Beyond that, they are highly regarded for the impact their innovative ideas and technical accomplishments have had within the R&D community across the nation and around the globe."

The titles are awarded by the Board of Regents, which governs the University System of Georgia.

White House to Reappoint Peterson to Serve on National Science Board

MATT NAGEL
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

The White House has announced its intent to reappoint President G.P. "Bud" Peterson to the National Science Board (NSB), National Science Foundation (NSF).

Peterson was first appointed to the NSB in 2008 by President George W. Bush. He has served as the chair of the Audit and Oversight Committee charged with ensuring that the NSF is properly evaluating and managing its operational risks.

The NSB is the policymaking body for the NSF and advises the president and Congress on science and engineering policy issues. The 24 board members serve six-year terms, are drawn primarily from universities and industry, and represent a variety of science and engineering disciplines. They are selected for their eminence in research, education, or public service.

G.P. "Bud" Peterson

Since assuming the role as president of Georgia Tech in 2009, Peterson has strengthened the Institute's national leadership position in innovation, expanded strategic partnerships, and championed leadership in education and research. He also holds the position of professor of mechanical engineering.

Peterson has worked as a research scientist at NASA and at the NSF. In 2011, President Barack Obama appointed him to the Advanced Manufacturing Partnership (AMP) steering committee and, in September 2013, appointed him to the AMP 2.0 steering committee.

Tech Stays Strong in U.S. News Rankings

7 individual programs rank among top 5 nationally

MATT NAGEL
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Georgia Tech continued its longstanding record for high marks in the 2015 Best Colleges undergraduate rankings by *U.S. News & World Report*. Georgia Tech ranked seventh among public universities and 35th among all national universities.

"This is the 16th consecutive year that Georgia Tech has ranked among the top 10 public universities," said President G.P. "Bud" Peterson. "Georgia Tech continues to be recognized nationally for the faculty's commitment to excellence in preparing our students to use innovation, research, and collaboration to meet the challenges that face our society."

The College of Engineering moved up to a fourth place ranking (rising from fifth place in 2014) for undergraduate engineering programs at institutions that award doctoral degrees. The College also continued with solid rankings in its engineering programs, with seven programs ranking in the top five.

By the Numbers

National Ranks

#7 – Public Universities

#4 – Undergraduate Engineering Programs

#29 – Undergraduate Business Programs

Specialty Ranks – Engineering

#1 – Industrial Engineering

#2 – Civil Engineering

#3 – Aerospace Engineering

#3 – Environmental Engineering

#4 – Biomedical Engineering

#5 – Mechanical Engineering

Specialty Ranks – Business

#5 – Quantitative Analysis

See the full list of Georgia Tech rankings from *U.S. News & World Report* at **c.gatech.edu/gtusnews2014**.

Georgia Tech's internship and cooperative education initiatives are also cited in the publication's "Academic Programs to Look For."

The Scheller College of Business ranked 29th for undergraduate business education.

FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

The Young Architects Forum Atlanta, a program of the Atlanta Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, presented **Jennifer Bonner**, assistant professor in the School of Architecture and director of Studio Bonner, with the 2014 Emerging Voices Award.

For the second year, the **Georgia Tech Office of Undergraduate Admission** was recognized as one of Atlanta's Top 100 Best Places to Work by the *Atlanta Business Chronicle*. The department will be honored at a breakfast and featured in the *Chronicle*'s Sept. 12 issue.

Eric Gilbert, assistant professor in the School of Interactive Computing, was named a fellow in the Digital Ecologies Research Partnership, which explores how public data can be used for ethical academic inquiry into the social dynamics of online groups and websites.

EVENTS

September 24
The Library hosts an Intro to InDesign CS5 workshop from 10–11:30 a.m. InDesign can be used to create graphics, posters, fliers, brochures, magazines, and newsletters. Homer Rice Center, Library. Free. Register at: **c.gatech.edu/indesignsept24**

September 30
This Faculty Development Workshop focuses on fostering STEM careers with individual development plans. The session will introduce tools for faculty to better prepare their graduate students and postdoctoral fellows for their careers. From 2:30–3:30 p.m. Student Center Theater. Free. **c.gatech.edu/facwksp930**

MISCELLANEOUS

September 16
The Office of Human Resources hosts a Be Well workshop about resources available at the Walmart Pharmacy in Tech Square at noon. Room 320, Student Center. Register at: **c.gatech.edu/bewellwalmart**

September 17
The Georgia Tech Faculty Women's Club hosts its annual Open House at 11 a.m. All faculty women and wives are invited to attend. First Lady Val Peterson will be in attendance. President's Suite, Student Success Center. **gtfwc.gatech.edu**

September 18
The Georgia Tech Farmers Market returns to Tech Walk this semester, every Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **fb.com/gtfarmersmarket**

September 19
Graduate students in the Student Planning Association will turn two parking spaces in Tech Square into a miniature park from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. for PARK(ing) Day, a national event aimed at promoting urban open space. Fifth Street. Free. **parkingday.org**

September 19
Postdoctoral researchers will present their work at the inaugural Postdoctoral Research Symposium at 2:30 p.m. Petit Institute Atrium. **c.gatech.edu/postdocsymp**

September 19
The Student Center Programs Council hosts Georgia Tech Night at Six Flags. Tickets for faculty and staff are available for $26. Purchase tickets at: **c.gatech.edu/gtsixflags14**

September 21
Teams of students participating in Startup House will build boats out of cardboard and duct tape and race them at the Startup House Regatta from 2–3:30 p.m. The boat must hold two crew members while it makes its way across the Campus Recreation Center Pool. Free. **startuphouse.gatech.edu**

For a more comprehensive listing of events updated daily, visit **calendar.gatech.edu**

Community News

Alumni Honor Liotta's Legacy with Endowment

DAN TREADAWAY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

The impact a college professor has on his or her students is difficult to measure, especially for students who graduated long before formalized course evaluations were adopted.

For alumnus Rodney C. "Rocky" von Dullen, the impact that Professor Charles L. Liotta had on his college experience was profound.

"Professor Liotta was the most open, warm, and human of professors I had at Georgia Tech," said von Dullen. "He showed me that the road to success was not only about the engineering and the technology, but also about the people required to get the job done. He's a people person who cares about his students, and he set an example that I've always tried to follow."

In appreciation for Liotta's tireless mentoring of thousands of Tech students and in celebration of his 50th anniversary as a Tech faculty member, von Dullen and his wife, alumna Catherine Dowling von Dullen, will establish the Charles L. Liotta Faculty Endowment Fund, which will establish faculty appointments in the School of Chemistry and Biochemistry that bear Liotta's name.

Professor Liotta is widely revered among generations of Georgia Tech alumni, faculty, and staff. After earning a bachelor's degree from Brooklyn College in 1959 and a doctorate from the University of Maryland in 1963, Liotta joined the Tech chemistry faculty in 1964 – also holding a joint appointment in the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering.

He has served as advisor to 81 doctoral students, 33 postdoctoral associates, and 25 master's students; he currently serves as thesis advisor to five Ph.D. students.

In addition to his decades of service as a committed teacher, leading research scientist, and devoted mentor, Liotta also served as chair of the School of Chemistry and Biochemistry, director of the Institute of Sustainable Technology and Development, and — at the Institute level — as vice provost for research and dean of graduate studies. In 2003, Professor Liotta was named an honorary alumnus by the Georgia Tech Alumni Association in honor of his lifetime of achievement on the campus.

"I am very honored that the von Dullens would hold me in such great favor," Liotta said. "Through my entire career at Georgia Tech, I've always tried to put students first and to provide good advice for them, because I knew that whatever they experienced at Georgia Tech could affect their future professional lives.

"As I look back over my career at Georgia Tech, one of the things I have always strived to do is to let students see the joy and excitement of discovery," Liotta explained. "In the classroom, my subject matter is chemistry. Chemistry is exciting! My goal is to present the subject matter through my eyes. If students catch on to that excitement, they'll both retain and enjoy what I am teaching. I have learned that if you're not excited about what you're teaching, the students will sense it, and this could prove to be a barrier to learning. I always try to remind myself that I am an important influence for the growth and maturation of my students. All professors should be aware of this. Most important — students should always come first."

Charles Liotta, pictured with President G.P. "Bud" Peterson at a Georgia Tech Commencement ceremony, is revered among generations of Tech alumni as a dynamic teacher and caring mentor. Alumnus Rocky von Dullen and his wife have established an endowment fund in his name for faculty positions in the School of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

Get Prepared during Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month, and the Office of Emergency Preparedness encourages everyone to take a few minutes to prepare for potential crisis. A few steps to take to be a more prepared member of the Tech community:

- Follow the Office of Emergency Preparedness on Facebook (**fb.com/ GTEmergency**) and Twitter (**twitter.com/GTPDalerts**).
- Sign up for Georgia Tech Emergency Notification System (GTENS) alerts at passport.gatech.edu.
- Register for Campus Emergency Response Team training. Training runs from Sept. 23 – Nov. 13. Email **emergencypreparedness@ ep.gatech.edu** to register or with questions.
- Download the "In Case of Crisis" app at **c.gatech. edu/14HxC9m.**
- Always report suspicious activity to Georgia Tech Police at 404-894-2500.

SACSCOC was 16 months in the making, and required the efforts of hundreds of individuals from all over campus. The 462-page report contains more than 2,500 Web links and references, and more than 1,200 PDFs and Excel documents.

The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) for student learning is also part of the reaffirmation process. In March, Georgia Tech selected a QEP that will focus on learning anchored in real-world sustainability problems.

The purpose of the QEP is to enhance the quality of student learning outcomes and the environment of learning. The QEP is directly related to the Institute's Strategic Plan. It will have a detailed implementation plan and a budget for five to 10 years of support.

According to co-authors of the QEP, students are increasingly aware of the challenges of sustainability and are acting on their desires to positively impact the world around them through available curricular and co-curricular activities. However, to date, there is no coordinated curricular effort in this area.

This QEP will not only fill this void, it will also immerse students in learning opportunities where they work on sustainability-focused problems drawn from the community, businesses, and government. The plan will also help Tech operationalize its Strategic Plan vision and its mission.

SACSCOC FACTS

- Two main components: Compliance Certification and a Quality Enhancement Program (QEP) for Student Learning.
- QEP topic selected March 2014.
- Compliance Certification self-study submitted Sept. 10.
- QEP is due January 2015.
- SACSCOC visit to campus will be March 9–12, 2015.
- The self-study is nearly three times the length of the 2005 report because of new documentation requirements.

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for improvement.

"The safety and well-being of our students, faculty, and staff on our campuses is both a concern and a priority," said Huckaby. "Looking ahead in the University System, as we work to be more student-focused in the academic performance of students, I have concluded that we must simultaneously sharpen our focus on campus safety and behavior."

The group will look at policies and procedures including how campuses respond to and address sexual assault, requirements and compliance within campus law enforcement agencies, and accurate reporting pertaining to the federal Clery Act.

Undergraduate Student Government Association President Dillon Roseen will also serve on the committee.

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