

Tech Parkway Travel Changes This Week

KRISTEN BAILEY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

For those who use Tech Parkway as a main campus access point, look out for traffic shifts this week.

The PATH Foundation, with whom Tech is partnering on the project, has stated that

construction will result in vehicle traffic changes beginning Tuesday, Nov. 8, at noon. At that time, southbound traffic from Northside Drive will be directed onto what was previously the northbound lanes of Tech Parkway. Going forward, the former northbound side will accommodate both northbound and southbound traffic, as well

as parking on one side. All drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists are encouraged to proceed with caution during the transition.

Construction will continue along the corridor in the coming months as it becomes a corridor designed for automobile, pedestrian, and bicycle travel. For more information, visit c.gatech.edu/techpkwy.

Open Enrollment Ends Nov. 11

Employees should review and make any necessary updates to their coverage at techworks.gatech.edu.

What to Read during an Election Year: Campaigns, Primaries, Spin, and Just the Facts

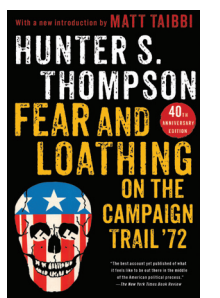
VICTOR ROGERS
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Some Georgia Tech faculty members and librarians have recommended books that may help make sense of the 2016 presidential election – through the lens of previous elections. The recommendations range from books on the strategizing and deal-making of modern-day campaigns to a nonpartisan book of election facts and figures dating back to 1789.

Fear and Loathing on the Campaign Trail '72 By Hunter S. Thompson, Straight Arrow Books, 1973

“This book is an inspired chronicle of the presidential race that rivaled the inanity of the 2016 election season — as seen through a chemical haze and the jaundiced eye of Hunter S. Thompson. The book is a compilation of the many articles the inimitable Thompson wrote for *Rolling Stone* magazine while covering the 1972 presidential campaign between President Richard M. Nixon and Senator George S. McGovern. His nearly stream-of-consciousness writing centers on the Democratic Party battles — including the infighting to try to block McGovern’s nomination, the hoopla leading to the replacement of Eagleton as the vice presidential candidate due to mental health treatments, and the catastrophic defeat to Nixon. His stories are often vulgar, always humorous, and perhaps not always 100 percent based in fact. Yet, McGovern aide Frank Mankiewicz has been credited with calling Thompson’s tome ‘the least accurate and most truthful’ book about the race. It’s definitely a wild ride through the political landscape of the ‘72 campaign, and a very fun read in 2016.”

— Lori Ostapowicz Critz, assistant dean, Collection Strategies, Georgia Tech Library



see **ELECTION**, page 3

SUPPORTING AN END TO SUICIDE



Photo by Rob Felt

First Lady Val Peterson speaks at a group meeting for Tech Ends Suicide Together on Thursday, Nov. 3. At the meeting, Peterson contributed \$10,000 to the work of the campaign. It was accepted by Lacy Currie, suicide prevention and crisis response coordinator for the Georgia Tech Counseling Center. Learn more at endsuicide.gatech.edu.

University System Honors Tech Staff Members

KRISTEN BAILEY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Two individuals and one group from Georgia Tech were honored by the University System of Georgia (USG) at the annual Chancellor’s Service Excellence Awards ceremony in October.

The ceremony, held this year at Georgia College and State University, honors USG employees who go above and

beyond their expected job duties in service to their greater community.

Lindsay Bryant, director of the Student Center, earned a silver award for Outstanding Leader (Administrator Level).

The silver award in the Team of the Year category went to the leadership team for Tech’s Event Coordinators’ Network (ECN). The team includes Renée Brown, Barb Dockweiler, LaJauna Ellis, Julie Hawkins, Nicole Little, Laura Pusateri, Catherine Shaw, Stephanie Sigler, Felicia Turner, and Serena Wallace, and

was recognized for its effort to improve both the skill set and standards of service for those who plan and execute events on behalf of Georgia Tech. The ECN has more than 400 members from 90 campus departments and will host its 8th annual workshop on Nov. 18. Learn more at special-events.gatech.edu/ecn.

Michael Edwards, senior director of Campus Recreation, earned an honorable mention in the Outstanding Leader category.

Learn more about the recognition program at c.gatech.edu/USGexcellence.

NEWS BRIEFS

Hosts Wanted for Thanksgiving Holiday

Many international and out-of-state students can’t make it home for the holidays, so faculty and staff are invited to share the holiday by hosting students for dinner. To sign up, visit:

c.gatech.edu/holidayhost



Charitable Campaign Coming to a Close

The State Charitable Contributions Program brings the Georgia Tech community together to help those in need in the state of Georgia and beyond. The deadline to give this year is Tuesday, Nov. 15, and there are hundreds of charities to choose from.

charitable.gatech.edu



IN THIS ISSUE

Center for Teaching and Learning Evolves | **2**

Faculty and Staff Achievements | **3**

In the Classroom with Kelly Comfort | **4**

EVENTS

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Nov. 16

Human Resources hosts a Be Well session on wills from noon to 1 p.m. in Room 320, Student Center. Learn more and register at: ohr.gatech.edu/bewell

SEMINARS & LECTURES

Nov. 10

Professional Education hosts a New Tools Showcase to highlight some of the resources available for online learning, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in Room 129, Global Learning Center, and online. Register and learn more at: c.gatech.edu/toolshowcase

Nov. 11

The School of Architecture hosts the 21st Century Urban Housing Symposium on Ecology, Opportunity, and Affordability, from noon to 5:30 p.m. in the Reinsch-Pierce Family Auditorium, East Architecture Building. Learn more and register at: c.gatech.edu/21stcenthousing

Nov. 14

Paul Goldbart, the Betsy Middleton and John Clark Sutherland Chair and Dean of the College of Sciences, will discuss *Strange and Subtle States of Matter: The Topological Ideas behind the 2016 Nobel Prize in Physics*, from 6 to 7 p.m. in Room 152, Clough Commons. physics.gatech.edu

Nov. 15

Learn practical techniques to apply self-awareness and ethical leadership at *Ethical Leadership for the 21st Century*, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Historic Academy of Medicine at Georgia Tech. RSVP to attend: ethicalleadership@gatech.edu

Nov. 17

Philanthropy: The Difference between Good and Great will feature leaders from the Office of Development discussing Tech's recent \$1.8 billion campaign, from 11 a.m. to noon in Room 228, Industrial and Systems Engineering Main Building. c.gatech.edu/demystifyphil

Nov. 18

An Inform Georgia Tech session will highlight Capital Planning and Space Management from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in the Clary Theatre, Student Success Center. staffcouncil.gatech.edu

EVENTS continued on page 3

Center for Teaching and Learning Evolves

AMELIA PAVLIK
GRADUATE EDUCATION AND FACULTY AFFAIRS

A few years ago, Joyce Weinsheimer thought her work at the recently renamed Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) was finished.

"After more than 40 years in education, I thought it might be time to retire," said Weinsheimer, who is now director of CTL. "But, the opportunity to create a culture at this university that promotes and rewards excellence in teaching — something I've always been passionate about — presented itself. And I couldn't say 'no' to the challenge."

Weinsheimer recently shared her thoughts on the name change and other changes at CTL this year.

So, why change the center's name (which was "Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning")?

We wanted our emphasis to be on teaching and learning. When newcomers read "the enhancement of" in our name, they thought our focus was on fixing poor teaching. We sent out a survey to faculty and administrators, and 90 percent thought the change to "Center for Teaching and Learning" was a good idea.

Who can use CTL's services?

Anyone teaching at Georgia Tech — whether the person is a faculty member, a temporary/part-time instructor, a postdoctoral scholar, a graduate student, an undergraduate who serves as a teaching assistant (TA) or tutor, or a staff member who teaches GT 1000. There are a lot of different teaching roles on our campus, and CTL connects with them all.

What are some of the challenges that instructors at Georgia Tech face, and how can CTL help?

Having enough time to do everything well is difficult. This especially can pose a challenge to those who want to excel in both teaching and research. So, CTL provides a variety of ways to explore best teaching practices. Those who choose to invest just a little time can attend a workshop, consult about a particular

class, or join our book club. Those who want to go more in-depth can participate in a faculty learning community on a topic of their choice or participate in the Future Faculty program.

What are you looking forward to most about your work as director?

I'm really passionate about creating a culture at Tech that promotes and rewards excellence in teaching. I want our students to have an educational experience that energizes them and prepares them for the future. We have instructors who are using innovative strategies that engage students in the hard work of learning. As CTL's director, I want to highlight what these folks are doing and help more of our instructional staff use evidence-based practices that enhance student learning. In addition, I enjoy working with my campus colleagues on "Creating the Next" in teaching and learning. How will we respond to the challenges that are emerging? What bold actions will we take to ensure that the educational experience we offer is worthwhile? I like being part of the "next" and helping it take shape at Tech.



Joyce Weinsheimer

Are there any new additions to the CTL staff?

I've changed the structure of CTL a bit this year. David Lawrence is now associate director, and we have organized CTL into three areas: learning and technology initiatives, TA development and Future Faculty initiatives, and faculty teaching and learning initiatives. We've welcomed two new staff members — Kate Williams and Tammy McCoy — both of whom will work with our TA development and Future Faculty initiatives. We also hope to have a postdoctoral fellow join us soon.

What changes will CTL make in the next few months?

I want to lead us into a new era of collaboration among administrators, instructional

staff, and support units to maximize student learning on this campus. We have two new important partnerships underway:

Provost Teaching and Learning Fellows. This new program makes it possible for CTL to partner with each of the colleges/schools and work on college-specific initiatives. With the help of the deans, we will select two to five fellows from each college to work directly with CTL in this hub-and-spoke model. This new collaboration will allow us to connect the expertise of CTL professionals with the expertise of disciplinary faculty. Together, we'll enhance the learning environment in ways we have not been able to do before.

CIRTL Network. We recently joined the Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL) Network, where we are working with 46 research universities to prepare future faculty in all disciplines (with a particular emphasis on STEM fields). This means that beginning this fall, Tech graduate students and postdoctoral fellows who want to pursue the Tech to Teaching Certificate will have more pathways to satisfy the requirements of the program.

What are some of the highlights of CTL's recently redesigned website? How is it more useful to the campus community?

The information is easier to find, and our events page breaks out teaching and learning-related events according to audience. Best of all, the homepage now features news and information related to teaching and learning for the whole campus — so, it's easier to know what's happening at Tech.

Can you share a few new publications that you'd recommend to instructors trying to learn more about best practices?

Right now, our book club is looking at *Are You Smart Enough?* by Alexander W. Astin. Next, we'll be reading *Minds Online: Teaching Effectively with Technology* by Michelle D. Miller. We'll discuss this book during our Nov. 11 meeting — so stop by CTL to pick up a book, then join us in book club for a glass of wine and a great discussion.

Learn more about CTL at ctl.gatech.edu.

Short-Term Loaner Laptops Available from OIT

LORRIE BURROUGHS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Did you know that if you need to borrow a laptop, the Office of Information Technology (OIT) can help? If, for instance, you want to try out laptops for your program before actually purchasing, or are traveling for business or during the holidays, you may want to consider OIT's Loaner Laptop Program.

Each Dell or Apple device is equipped

with basic hardware and software features, including an operating system, Microsoft Office, and virtual private network (VPN), so use at an event or as a temporary backup is seamless.

Reserving a laptop can be done easily using the reservation form available on the Event Management System (EMS). Visit gtevents.gatech.edu/VirtualEms, choose "Request Space" from the pulldown menu, and select "OIT Laptop Request Form." Once your request has been submitted, a Technology Support Center staff member will make sure you're credentialed as a faculty or staff member and will assist with any final registration steps. You'll be contacted when

your laptop is ready to be collected from the Technology Support Center in Suite 215 of the Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons. Once an employee obtains his or her loaner laptop, their school or department's computer support specialist can approve and add any additional software or drivers required.

When the laptop is returned, it's wiped clean and reset for the next customer.

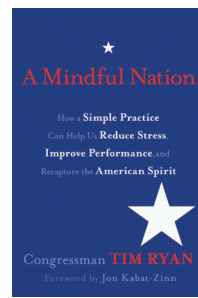
As with any Institute-issued equipment, users should follow Georgia Tech's policies for working and safe computing. For more information on policy and compliance regulations, visit the Cyber Security page at security.gatech.edu/policy-compliance-assessments.

ELECTION, from page 1**A Mindful Nation**

By Tim Ryan, Hay House, 2012

“Congressman Tim Ryan of Ohio’s 17th district is an outlier in an era of ‘scorched earth’ politics and instant commentary. In *A Mindful Nation*, Ryan describes his personal and professional experience with mindfulness meditation, and how this practice could have a transformative impact in arenas as diverse as education, health, support for military veterans, and even the economy. The claims in his book are supported by an increasing number of research studies suggesting that mindfulness and related social-emotional practices can indeed improve some outcomes in education and health. The chapter on integrating mindfulness practice into educational settings is particularly inspiring since Ryan eloquently connects emotional states of children in stressful environments with the capacity for learning and retention. Mindfulness is by no means a panacea for the complex, entrenched problems facing the nation, but Ryan’s book suggests this simple practice could have substantial benefits across a range of public policy domains.”

— *Ameet Doshi, subject librarian for Economics and Public Policy, Georgia Tech Library*



many other political or election writings, this is not a narrative story. Unfortunately, many of the ‘narratives’ inevitably begin to tilt toward the author’s political bent. For example, they portray one side or the other as the bad/good boys and girls or purposefully/accidentally demonize the proverbial opposition. So, again, for the nonpartisan perspective, I’d suggest this one.”

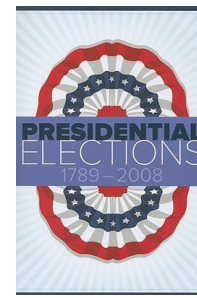
— *Scott W. Braley, instructor, School of Building Construction*

And three recommendations from Richard Barke, associate professor, School of Public Policy:

The Making of the President, 1960

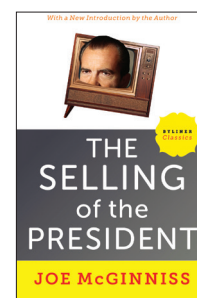
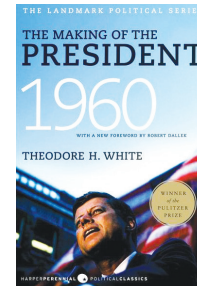
By Theodore H. White, Atheneum Publishers, 1961

“White won the Pulitzer Prize for his account of the Kennedy/Nixon campaign. In some ways, it’s a reminder of how politics worked before television dominated the campaigns: strategizing and back-room deals, for sure, but also personal connections and concerns about nuanced issue positions.”

**The Selling of the President 1968**

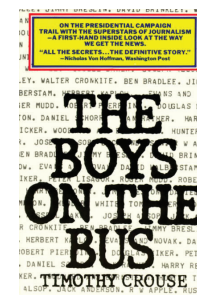
By Joe McGinniss, Trident Press, 1969

“This account of the 1968 election puts today’s campaigns into perspective: the focus on television images, the beginning of the influence of Roger Ailes (then a producer of *The Mike Douglas Show* and, until recently, the power behind *Fox News*), and how the low opinion media aides have of the American public translates into campaign strategies.”

**The Boys on the Bus**

By Timothy Crouse, Random House Trade Paperbacks, 2003 (first published in 1973)

“This brief and entertaining book reveals the emergence of modern political campaign strategies during the Nixon/McGovern contest, especially some early attempts at the ‘spin’ manipulation that now characterizes our election campaigns. The book is serious but also sometimes hilarious. It’s still used as a text in journalism courses.”



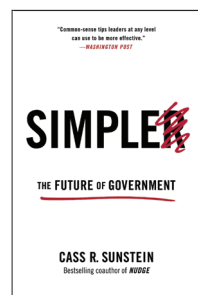
Read part one of this series, which focuses on presidential biographies, in the Feb. 15 issue of *The Whistle* at whistle.gatech.edu.

Simpler: The Future of Government

By Cass Sunstein, Simon and Schuster, 2013

“I have read [several books on elections], but the most important is *Simpler* by Cass Sunstein. Sunstein is a legal scholar and former head of the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs and has used the breakthroughs in behavioral economics to improve government. Sunstein discusses the importance of crafting policy and law that takes these progressions into account, but he also focuses on efficiency in government. He recommends evidence-based policy through cost-benefit analysis and randomized controlled trial on every policy.”

— *Seth M. Porter, co-coordinator of Library Instruction and Social Sciences Librarian, Georgia Tech Library*

**Presidential Elections: 1789-2008**Published by CQ Press. (*The latest of these is 2009, with no update for the 2012 election.*)

“With the spirit of impartiality as my guide, I recommend *Presidential Elections: 1789-2008*. This volume is essentially a book focused on facts as recorded — with less editorial slanting than others. It is for election geeks, or those who like to swim in facts and figures. Unlike

FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Marilyn Brown, professor in the School of Public Policy, has been appointed to the Geographical Sciences Committee of The National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine.

Laura Cadonati, associate professor in the School of Physics, was named an ACC Distinguished Lecturer. This is the highest academic honor conferred by the ACC Academic Consortium.

Jamila Cola, research scientist in the Center for Education Integrating Science, Mathematics, and Computing, received the 2016 Mike Neden STEM Champion Award presented by the International STEM Education Association. This award serves as a standard of excellence for individuals who promote integrated science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education.

Reginald DesRoches, the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering’s Karen and John Huff School Chair, earned the highest award for professional achievements in academia from the Association

of Haitian and American Engineers. DesRoches hails from the island nation and worked there extensively after a deadly earthquake in 2010.

The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics announced that **Karen Feigh** and **Brian German**, professors in the Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering, have been elected Associate Fellows.

Jill Gostin, deputy director of the Information and Communications Laboratory at the Georgia Tech Research Institute, was named to a second three-year term on the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers’ Board of Governors.

Diana Hicks, professor in the School of Public Policy, received the 2016 Ziman Award from the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology with her co-authors of the *Leiden Manifesto*.

Marcus Holzinger, Daniel Guggenheim Professor in the Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering, and **Matt McDowell**, assistant professor in the School of Materials Science and Engineering,

earned Young Investigator Research Program Awards from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research.

The Air Force Research Laboratory, in partnership with the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the National Science Foundation, awarded the top prize for the Materials Science and Engineering Data Challenge to the team of **Surya Kalidindi**, professor in the School of Materials Science and Engineering, graduate student **Joshua Gomberg**, and postdoctoral fellow **Andrew Medford**.

Gabe Kwong, assistant professor in the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering, was named a recipient of the National Institutes of Health New Innovator Award.

Manu Platt, associate professor in the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering, was named to the *Atlanta Business Chronicle’s* 40 Under 40 for 2016.

Stephen M. Ruffin, professor in the Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering, was

named associate chair of Graduate Programs for the School.

Valerie Thomas, professor in the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial & Systems Engineering, and her collaborator Suriya Arulselvan (a 2015 Tech graduate) were awarded the Judges’ Choice Award for the 2016 Aviation Contest from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Climate CoLab.

President Barack Obama announced his intent to nominate Admiral **James A. “Sandy” Winnefeld**, distinguished professor in the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs and former vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as a member of the Board of Visitors to the United States Naval Academy.

The Marconi Society, dedicated to furthering scientific achievements in communications and the internet, honored **Junwen Zhang**, a postdoctoral research fellow in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, with the 2016 Marconi Society Paul Baran Young Scholar Award.

EVENTS**Nov. 18**

The Center for Teaching and Learning hosts a Tech Teaching Talk on creating supplemental teaching materials for students to view outside of class. The session takes place from 1 to 2 p.m. in Room 469, Clough Commons.

ctl.gatech.edu

ARTS & CULTURE**Through March 2017**

An exhibition of the work of designer Santiago Calatrava combines architecture, sculpture, art, and engineering in the Flex Space of the Caddell Building.

space.gatech.edu/calatrava

MISCELLANEOUS**Nov. 11**

The ROTC Program hosts a Veterans Day run beginning at Callaway Plaza at 6:30 a.m. All are welcome.

rotc.gatech.edu

Nov. 11

Georgia Tech Basketball will honor veterans at its game against Tennessee Tech at 8 p.m. at McCamish Pavilion.

ramblinwreck.com

Nov. 12

The Office of International Education hosts a day trip to Your DeKalb Farmers Market with a service project component, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The trip departs from the Savant Building. Learn more and view registration details at:

c.gatech.edu/ydfm

Nov. 16

The Resilience Employee Resource Group hosts *The Art of Empathy and Self-Compassion*. Attendees will explore how they can more fully understand, appreciate, and accept people with whom they interact.

Learn more and RSVP at: c.gatech.edu/empathy

Nov. 18

The LGBTQIA Resource Center hosts Trans Day of Remembrance from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Room 320, Student Center.

lgbtqia.gatech.edu

Nov. 19

Georgia Tech hosts the University of Virginia at Bobby Dodd Stadium. Attendees are encouraged to bring a donation for a holiday toy drive.

ramblinwreck.com

Nov. 24-25

Campus is closed for Thanksgiving Break. Classes also will not meet on Nov. 23.

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

IN THE CLASSROOM

with Kelly Comfort

Comfort Goes Beyond Basics in Language Learning

VICTOR ROGERS
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Associate Professor of Spanish Kelly Comfort went to college with plans to become a broadcast journalist. But, like many students, she found that the reality didn't meet her expectations, and she just didn't like what she was studying. Taking her first class in comparative literature changed her life.

"The professor was incredible," she said. "I was rather shy in the classroom, and he had a way of getting me to talk. He would play devil's advocate and really draw the students in."

In some ways, it was that professor — Eric Downing at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill — who inspired Comfort and made her interested in the field of literature.

"I realized that being a literature professor allowed me to do the same things that had drawn me to journalism — public speaking, writing, and having knowledge of the world and applying it in certain ways," she said.

Comfort's mother, a high school math teacher who retired this year, was her other inspiration for becoming a teacher. She was Comfort's teacher for six classes in high school.

"Luckily, math is not an ambiguous subject; the answer is right or wrong," Comfort said. "So, I think it prevented any accusations of favoritism," she joked.

Comfort said her mother was a very compassionate teacher, and her friends and classmates would talk to her mother about their problems.

"She had a very humane approach to teaching, and she also could make math make sense to everyone," Comfort said. "Some of the things about how I teach are similar to her. She was always over-prepared but could improvise well if something didn't work. That was important. She was not rigid and could adapt to how we reacted to her teaching."

Classroom Strategies

As an associate professor of Spanish in the School of Modern Languages, Comfort teaches Spanish as a foreign language, and literature and culture as a subject matter. She teaches in Spanish. With the exception of occasionally teaching Spanish 2001, an intermediate course, all of her teaching is at the upper-division level.



Photo by Rob Felt

Kelly Comfort, associate professor in the School of Modern Languages, advises new faculty members that an important part of teaching is asking the right questions.

"By the time students get to that level, they are conversant in Spanish," Comfort said. "I'm certainly correcting grammar, building vocabulary, and improving sentence structure, but it's not the student who's coming to me without any basis in the language."

She also teaches Latin American literature in Spanish. She said the students may struggle with some of the vocabulary, so part of her job is to help facilitate the discussion and analysis of the text.

"When I'm teaching language, what excites me most is watching students grow in their confidence as well as their proficiency," Comfort said. "When I can see students lose some of their nervousness and anxiety, take risks, and be proud of those risks, it's really exciting."

She emphasizes the importance of gaining fluidity in the language so that the students are not stopping themselves about word choice and grammar.

When teaching literature and culture — especially literature — she enjoys seeing students debate and discuss different interpretations of a literary text.

"I pit different readings against each other, and problematize the reading so there are multiple ways to interpret a story," she said. "There isn't necessarily a right answer, but every answer has to be backed up and supported."

Comfort also gets excited about teaching literature at a technology-focused school.

"I think it provides a philosophical and creative outlet for what are typically engineering students," she said. "Many of them excelled at language and literature in high school, but they made the choice to go into a STEM field. But, it's something they still want to incorporate into their academic careers here, and my classes allow them to do that."

She teaches four classes that involve a service learning or community engagement

component: Spanish Service Learning, Hispanic Community Internship, Intercultural Seminar (senior capstone course in Spanish), and a Modern Language introductory seminar. In these classes, students have to complete three or six hours, respectively, of community engagement with the local Latino community at one of 25 businesses or nonprofit organizations. They use their Spanish working at hospitals, schools, and after school programs in areas of health care, education, immigration, translation, domestic violence prevention, and drug prevention.

Advice for New Faculty

Comfort wants her students to know how to be successful in class. So, she feels it is important to be very clear about expectations and how assignments will be graded. She says new faculty should place focus on that as well.

"It's up to the students to perform based on those standards," she said. "But they are always aware of what the sub-categories of a graded assignment are, and that allows them to be comfortable in the class and not overly concerned about the unknowns. I don't want students to be surprised, and I don't like to tack on things they weren't planning for. I definitely take into account what I see as the desire of Tech students to know what is expected [of them] and where we are going."

Another piece of advice for new faculty is that they don't need to know all of the answers.

"You have to know how to ask the right questions and give students the opportunity to explore and engage with the material and come up with their own interpretation," she said.

From the Source

Emnet Almedom, a 2013 Tech graduate, studied international affairs and Spanish. She began taking classes with Kelly Comfort during her freshman year.

"I remember her asking us to bring a photo of ourselves on the first day so she could start memorizing names in the 30-person class by the next week," Almedom said. "From then, I was hooked and took three other classes with her."

Almedom said Comfort's class was initially recommended to her because she came to Tech with a lot of Spanish grammar and writing experience, but she needed more of the 'real' side of language learning — such as learning her cadence, getting comfortable with different accents, and even learning to coach and be coached by classmates.

"My first class with her did just that, and she also gave me great perspective on what I could learn from other professors," Almedom said. "She was the first professor to recommend the Mexico LBAT (Language for Business & Technology) Program to me, which was the most formative of my college experiences and the experience that moved my Spanish skills along the furthest."

Almedom said that in most classes she took with Comfort, there was an expectation that the students would go into the Latino community in Atlanta to conduct interviews at a local mall or to intern/volunteer with community organizations.

"She very intentionally pairs language instruction with cultural learning and exchange. Most of my professors at Tech did this, but usually through film, literature, or study abroad," Almedom said. "She made me more aware of what was happening in our own city and how we can be more active participants."

Almedom said that Comfort brings a personal touch to any experience — in the classroom, during office hours, or as the advisor for the International House residence hall where she lived.

"She'll give you the theory and resources you need to improve your skills, but the part that sticks with you is the appreciation for culture, personal stories, and history alongside the mechanics of grammar," Almedom said.



CLASSIFIEDS

VEHICLES

Honda ST1300, 53K miles, GPS, driving lights, top box, handlebar riser with power outlet, highway pegs, and aftermarket padding in the seat. Have new tires for it as well. Contact scott.perkins@oit.gatech.edu.

Original Georgia Tech yellow 1976 L-48 Corvette Stingray. Fewer than 23,000 verified miles. \$13,000, negotiable. Car has been garage-kept for the past 40 years. AC, power steering, power brakes, AM/FM radio, rear defrost, T-Top covers. Selling as-is, no warranty. Contact daniel.schrage@ae.gatech.edu or 404-395-4456.

REAL ESTATE/ ROOMMATES

2BR/2.5BA house for rent in East Cobb/Marietta (30062). Sun room, enclosed patio, two-car garage, pool. Lawn and grounds maintained by HOA. Near wonderful shops and restaurants at the Avenues. Fully furnished and includes utilities. \$1,900/mo. Contact sandra.sheppard67@gmail.com, 770-364-3692.

1BR/1BA condo for rent. Amenities: pool, gym, secure gated parking, 24-hour concierge, on-site laundry. Walking distance to Tech and MARTA. \$1,500, all utilities included. Available Nov. 5. Call or text 404-822-6056.

Roommate wanted to share studio in Buckhead. Close to MARTA bus 110 route. \$680/mo. w/ utilities. Shared bath and room, mostly furnished, pet friendly. Available Oct. 1. Contact 404-904-0202 or durasolopez@gmail.com.

Roommate wanted to share house in East Point (close to MARTA rail stop). \$680/month all-inclusive. Private bedroom, shared bath, W/D in unit. Mostly furnished. Must be pet friendly. Contact 479-883-5540 or ashlee.flinn@oie.gatech.edu.

Visiting scholar seeking short-term housing close to campus through April 30, 2017. Contact tchalakov@gmail.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

Furnishings and appliances for sale. Thomasville sofa, hunter green plaid, 81x34: \$90. LG appliances like new — ultra large top load washer, 4.7 cu. ft., white, and ultra large dryer, 7.3 cu. ft., steam dry cleaning feature, 4 years old: \$995. Refrigerator — large capacity 3-door french door w/ filtered water dispenser and ice maker, 5 years old: \$500. Contact spence.wilkinson@comcast.net.

Items for sale: Three cream-colored leather look counter-height bar stools, good condition. \$75 each or \$200 for set. One L-shaped computer desk w/ pull-out keyboard tray, excellent condition. \$50. One maroon cloth computer swivel chair with arms, excellent condition. \$35. Contact 678-481-8170.

Two twin box springs and king bed frame for sale. All three are only one year old, from a pet-free, smoke-free home. All purchased from Mattress Firm. \$200. Contact calla.talman@scheller.gatech.edu.

Ads run for at least three issues in the order in which they are received. Submit your 35-word-or-less ad to editor@comm.gatech.edu.