



THE Whistle



ASK AWAY



What are the plans for the vacant property at the corner of North Avenue and Techwood?



Known as 150 North Ave., this property was acquired from the Atlanta

Housing Authority. "The intent is for Georgia Tech to build housing and limited retail to meet our campus community needs," said Howard Wertheimer, director of Capital Planning and Space Management. "The exact type of housing is still to be discussed and analyzed."

Have a Tech-related question that you'd like answered? Email it to editor@comm.gatech.edu.

MOOC Instructors Share Lessons Learned

AMELIA PAVLIK
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Two young Iranian women expressing how happy they were to find a strong female figure to look up to. A quadriplegic in Scotland sharing how, for the first time in his life, he felt equal to his classmates.

These are just a few of the stories that Karen Head, assistant professor in the School of Literature, Media, and Communication, shared about her experience teaching a massive open online course (MOOC) during last Thursday's MOOC-focused town hall.

"[In the case of the Iranian women] I feel like the anonymity of the MOOC allows students to speak up in a way that they can't always do under other circumstances," Head replied to a question regarding whether it was more challenging to get students to participate and provide feedback with a MOOC format.

Head was one of five MOOC instructors who joined Provost Rafael Bras to discuss



A panel of instructors who have taught some of Georgia Tech's first massive open online courses (MOOCs) shared their experiences during last Thursday's MOOC town hall.

the progress of MOOCs at Georgia Tech and lessons learned.

The other panelists included Bonnie Ferri, professor and associate chair for undergraduate affairs in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering; Mike Schatz, professor in the School of Physics;

Charles Isbell, associate dean for academic affairs in the School of Interactive Computing; and Alex Duncan, a master's student in Human-Computer Interaction, who served as a teaching assistant for the

MOOCs, continued on page 2

NEWS BRIEFS

Plan to Attend Nov. 6 Benefits Fair



The 2013 Benefits Fair will be held on Nov. 6

from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom. Learn more at

<http://c.gatech.edu/1eJHMcx>

RSVP for Nov. 19 Retirement Dinner

This year's Georgia Tech retirees will be honored



at 6 p.m. in the Academy of Medicine. Tickets are \$25. RSVP at

<http://c.gatech.edu/1gFwxpY>

Tech Celebrates Homecoming



This year's homecoming celebration (which runs through Nov. 2) is underway.

For all the details, visit

<http://c.gatech.edu/1gFAquT>

Obamacare Far from Being Settled Law

DAN TREADAWAY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

The recent federal government shutdown had a great deal to do with ongoing conservative opposition to the 2010 passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), also known as "Obamacare."

Even though the legislation was signed into law by President Barack Obama more than three years ago and upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2012, the ACA, in reality, is far from settled law, according to Todd Stein, a lecturer in the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs and leader of the government affairs/public policy practice at Kitchens New Cleghorn LLC.

Stein discussed the history and possible future of Obamacare last Wednesday as part of the Policy@Tech Speaker Series.

"Only 39 of the 58 Senate Democrats who initially voted for Obamacare in December 2009 are still in office, and those senators are getting nervous because they can clearly see things beginning to fray," said Stein, who served as legislative director and general counsel for now-retired Sen. Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut during the debate and passage of the ACA.



Todd Stein, a lecturer in the School of International Affairs, spoke to campus as part of the Policy@Tech Speaker Series.

OBAMACARE, continued on page 2

Survey Shares Campus Community's Thoughts on Diversity

AMELIA PAVLIK
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

There's one thing that faculty, staff, and students seem to agree on — Georgia Tech is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive environment.

This is one of the pieces of information learned from last spring's Climate Assessment survey, which was conducted to help define and assess Tech's progress toward achieving a culture of collegiality.

"For example, about 84 percent of faculty indicated that their school demonstrates a commitment to diversity and inclusion, and about 90 percent of staff think that Tech is a comfortable and inclusive environment," said Archie Ervin, vice president for Institute Diversity. "And more than 90 percent of students felt similarly. In sum, the report helps us to understand our strengths and suggests



Survey respondents included 439 faculty members, 2,451 staff members, and 3,782 students.

DIVERSITY, continued on page 3

ARTS & CULTURE

November 3

The Ferst Center for the Arts presents Sonic Generator, as it joins forces with members of L'Orchestre National de Lorraine at 7 p.m. Call 404-894-9600 for tickets or additional information.

www.ferstcenter.gatech.edu

November 7

The School of Music presents the first concert of the fall semester by the Symphonic Band and Concert Band, at 7:30 p.m. at the Ferst Center. The event is free to the public.

www.music.gatech.edu

SEMINARS & LECTURES

October 31

The campus community is invited to a town hall focused on "Toward a Georgia Tech Strategic Plan in Big Data" at noon in the Tech Square Research Building Auditorium. Register for the event at

<http://c.gatech.edu/1gFKR1w>

November 5-6

The Institute for People and Technology hosts its annual People and Technology Forum at the Global Learning Center. The forum will bring together business leaders, entrepreneurs, researchers, and public leaders to examine how emerging technologies will shape the future of our society. Learn more at

<http://ipatforum.gatech.edu>

November 6

The 2013 Georgia Tech Cyber Security Summit will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at the Georgia Tech Research Institute. Register at

<http://c.gatech.edu/1eJUoJQ>

November 13

The fifth annual Event Coordinators Network workshop on "Protocol for University Professionals" will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Historic Academy of Medicine. Register at

<http://c.gatech.edu/1eJS5NP>

MISCELLANEOUS

October 31

The Campus Recreation Center (CRC) is hosting the Annual Halloween Holla Run/Walk. The run/walk will begin at 7:15 a.m. at the front of the CRC and will follow the Pi Mile. Costumes are encouraged, and breakfast will be provided. Register at

<http://c.gatech.edu/1gn9nEs>

November 6

The 2013 Benefits Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom. It will give employees the opportunity to learn more about the coming year's benefit options. Learn more at

<http://c.gatech.edu/sSJayG>

Events continued on page 3

Campus News

IRI Intros: 3 Questions with Beth Mynatt

RESEARCH COMMUNICATIONS

You probably have heard that Georgia Tech has Interdisciplinary Research Institutes (IRIs) — but do you know much about them?

This article is part of a series to introduce the IRIs and their directors. In this issue, Executive Director Beth Mynatt answers questions about the Institute for People and Technology (IPaT).

Free Registration for People and Technology Forum

IPaT will host its annual People and Technology Forum Nov. 5-6 at the Global Learning Center. The keynote speaker will be Babak Parviz, creator of Google Glass. Faculty, students, and staff can attend for free (BuzzCard required) using code "ipattgt13." Register at:

<http://c.gatech.edu/1fY4pNn>

What is IPaT and its core research areas?

Focusing on sectors such as health care delivery, education, humanitarian systems, and consumer media, IPaT looks at the potential Tech's research has to transform human

behavior in areas of great societal interest.

We look at where technology and people come together in powerful ways. For example, we explore novel media technologies that will help motivate healthy behavior and help people manage chronic diseases. We look at new communication technologies to help communities find ways to take care of each other.

We examine creative technological approaches for fostering lifelong learning in all its forms. And we invent ways to simulate and model these complex societal systems to help stakeholders understand future possibilities.

What makes IPaT's approach to addressing complex societal challenges different?

We build strong partnerships across academic and applied research with government agencies and industry leaders to understand societal challenges and to accelerate implementations of technological solutions.

To facilitate this multidisciplinary approach, we create living laboratories where our researchers, partners, potential users, and consumers can all come together to co-create the future. Because these labs are where the transdisciplinary teams, our partners, and the technology converge, they are a big part of our work. If we didn't have research grounded in these laboratories, it would be just a lot of talk and possibility. But when everyone can co-create — that's when the magic happens and ideas become reality.

We consider the labs that we've put in place, such as the Interoperability and Integration Innovation Lab (I3L) — which is developing new ways to use and deliver health care and health information — one of our major contributions to the Tech innovation ecosystem. Another thing about our living labs is, anytime we create one, a key goal is for students to be able to access and contribute to research.

Why do companies work with IPaT?

The more experience I've had as a research administrator, the more I realize that companies want the answers to these questions: What makes people powerful? What makes people trust technology? What changes



Beth Mynatt is the executive director of the Institute for People and Technology.

people's behavior? Companies have confided that these questions are the ones that really challenge them and that they are looking for technical innovation as part of the larger solution to influencing human behavior. Over the years, we've learned to focus our partnerships with companies on these larger questions.

In addition, we make it easy for companies to engage Tech. They can sponsor theoretical research, or they can contract with us for specific technologies.

And as much as companies love working with our students, they love to work with each other at Tech. Many of our research programs are based on bringing multiple external partners to the same table so they can benefit from an exchange of ideas and collaboration — and enjoy the added advantage of having Tech as a neutral party. Our Nov. 5-6 People and Technology Forum is just one example of this. There are talks and research demos, but equally important are the conversations that take place in the hallways.

The Q&A, in its entirety, is available at

<http://c.gatech.edu/1fY3AEem>

MOOCS, continued from page 1

Introduction to Psychology as a Science MOOC.

To kick off the discussion, each panelist was invited to share a bit about their MOOC experiences.

"I was impressed with the [discussion] forums, because I loved how students would jump in and answer each other's questions," Ferri said.

Schatz shared that he doesn't usually have a chance to get to know students in his introductory physics courses. But, in teaching a MOOC version, with an on-campus contingent of students, he was able to use class for interactive activities that supplemented the online lectures, providing him a chance to develop relationships with his students.

Isbell, who is preparing to teach his first MOOC, commented on how he always thought he did a good job of evaluating how he teaches his courses on a regular basis.

"I've realized that I wasn't doing as good of a job as I thought," Isbell

said. "This has forced me to really think about my learning objectives and assessments."

There was also an opportunity for members of the audience to ask questions. One person asked if MOOCs were going to completely replace on-campus classes.

"I don't think this is the situation," Bras said. "I certainly believe that undergraduate education, especially in an environment like Georgia Tech, will only benefit."

Duncan added that people often think that MOOCs are in competition with face-to-face courses. Actually, the two formats can complement one another by providing opportunities for those off campus to learn and on-campus contingents to make more out of class time because lectures are done online, he said.

View a recording of the town hall here:

<http://c.gatech.edu/1gM6gpW>

OBAMACARE, continued from page 1

Stein said that lingering uncertainty about the long-term costs of the ACA, coupled with highly publicized difficulties with online sign-up for the program, have raised substantial doubts about its long-term viability. Stein said that provisions in the initial version of the ACA that would have purportedly saved \$124 billion over 10 years have either been eliminated or are in imminent danger of being eliminated. Consequently, the ACA is now cited by the Congressional Budget Office as the fifth leading driver of the nation's long-term debt.

Other factors are also raising doubts about the ACA's future. The ACA employer mandate — requiring all employers with 50 or more full-time employees to provide health coverage — was delayed for a year by executive order. This, in turn, delays the entrance of a substantial number of people into the insurance pool. In addition, healthy young people who have difficulty enrolling in ACA because of ongoing technical problems — or who simply choose not to enroll and opt to pay a tax penalty — could also reduce revenues to the insurance pool.

"As recently as September, 51 percent of Americans still did not know what to make of Obamacare," Stein said. "Depending on what happens these next weeks and months, that 51 percent will either get behind the program or apply sufficient political pressure to drive substantial changes to it. That's why I say it is not a matter of settled law."

Institute to Revise Definition of 'Faculty'

INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

During last Tuesday's faculty governance meeting, Jeanne Balsam, chair of the Statutes Committee, announced that two town halls would be held in November to discuss a revised definition of "faculty."



General faculty status will no longer be available. Job titles will be academic faculty, research faculty, or staff.

Balsam is chair of the Subcommittee on Faculty Definition, which has been charged with developing a plan for revising the definition of this job title. In addition to her role with Faculty Governance, Balsam is also a principal research associate at Georgia Tech Research Institute.

"Basically, general faculty status will no longer be available — each job title will be designated academic faculty, research faculty, or staff," Balsam said. "These town halls are an opportunity to explain and discuss the subcommittee recommendations with the

campus community."

The town halls will be held on Nov. 6 at 3 p.m. and on Nov. 14 at 11 a.m. in Room 102, Clough Commons.

In other meeting news:

- The deadline to contribute to the 2014 Charitable Campaign is Dec. 15. The Institute's goal is to get at least 1,500

members of the campus community to give \$330,000. Faculty and staff can choose to contribute to more than 1,000 organizations. This year, those who contribute to the campaign will be entered into drawings for a one-night stay and breakfast for two at the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center and a facial from Bliss Spa at the W Atlanta-Downtown. Donations can be made via TechWorks (www.techworks.gatech.edu), and more information can be found at www.charitable.gatech.edu.

- Changes were made to the sexual harassment policy for students so that it reflects the standard legal definition of sexual harassment. The Student Code of Conduct was also updated to reflect the revised policy.

For the full agenda from this meeting and future meeting dates, visit

<http://c.gatech.edu/19Ap0Cm>

OHR Launches New Learning Series

OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES

If you're looking for a way to develop new skills or refresh those currently in your toolbox, the Workplace Learning and Professional Development (WLPD) team is here to help.

"In creating our new learning curriculum, we are after learning transfer," said LaTrese Ferguson, manager of WLPD in the Office of Human Resources. "We believe this happens when relevant knowledge is transferred, that knowledge can immediately be applied, and behavior change is observed. This is what helps participants grow and develop to meet their full potential."



Image courtesy of Slias Photography Group

Courses offered by the Workplace Learning and Professional Development team can be customized based on departmental needs, or employees can select from classes listed at trains.gatech.edu.

A highly skilled, knowledgeable, and engaged workforce is essential to the success of the Institute. With this in mind, the WLPD team has revamped the faculty and staff professional development curriculum with a focus on competency development in five key areas.

- Communications
- Customer service
- Leadership
- Performance management
- Diversity and inclusion

Courses can be customized based on a department's needs, and can last a few hours or multiple days. Each course is offered monthly, every other month, or quarterly.

"We have a growing suite of free courses, and although there are minimal costs associated with a few of the courses, these are usually covered by the employee's department," Ferguson added.

Questions? Contact Ferguson at latrese.ferguson@ohr.gatech.edu. Also, visit the WLPD website regularly for updated course listings.

www.ohr.gatech.edu/learning

DIVERSITY, continued from page 1

areas where we should focus our attention to enhance the experiences of the members of our campus community."

The survey revealed high levels of satisfaction from many faculty, staff, and students on a number of items, while there were lower levels of satisfaction on others. Satisfaction varied based on social identities such as job function, gender, and race.

Respondents included 439 faculty members, 2,451 staff members, and 3,782 students (undergraduate and graduate).

"We received responses from nearly half of our faculty and staff, and from a sizable number of students," said Jonathan Gordon, director of the Office of Assessment. "This gives us considerable confidence in the reported results."

Here are a few of the results for faculty and staff:

FACULTY

- About 72 percent were satisfied with support they receive in collaboration on research, with advice on the promotion/tenure process, and mentoring for teaching.
- More than half of responding female faculty (about 52 percent) stated they had experienced instances of marginalization at Tech in the past three years, compared with about 11 percent of responding male faculty.
- Responding female faculty were less likely to feel supported by their chairs in terms of advice on obtaining grants (62 percent of males felt supported vs. 41 percent of females). Responding female faculty were also less satisfied with their school's efforts to retain faculty from diverse backgrounds (57 percent of females vs. 81 percent of males).

STAFF

- About 95 percent agreed that they could freely interact with colleagues in their work setting, about 85 percent felt comfortable sharing thoughts and ideas, and about 83 percent agreed that collaboration is encouraged in the workplace.
- About 72 percent agreed that promotion practices were consistent with Tech's commitment to diversity. (About 63 percent of female respondents and about 50 percent of underrepresented minorities — those who described themselves as American Indian, black/African-American, or Hispanic [regardless of race] — felt this way.)
- About 81 percent felt valued by the Tech community.

"We look forward to consulting with academic and administrative leaders regarding the outcomes that impact their respective units," said Julie Ancis, associate vice president for Institute Diversity. "Our office also plans to use the data to inform new and existing initiatives."

The results (including student data) are available to faculty and staff at

<http://b.gatech.edu/17c2DzK>

MISCELLANEOUS

November 7

The Student Center and Dining Services have partnered to bring local, sustainable food to campus. Stock up, and interact with local vendors and farmers. The market takes place each Thursday on Tech Walk through Nov. 21, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For an updated list of vendors, visit

<http://c.gatech.edu/10QmXh7>

November 8

The Office of Human Resources will host a campus information session about open enrollment and the 2014 benefit plans at 9:30 a.m. in the Student Center Theater.

<http://c.gatech.edu/sSjajG>

November 13

As part of International Education Week, the Office of International Education invites staff and faculty to participate in an interactive simulation designed to give participants a glimpse into the journey that international students undertake. The event will be held at 11 a.m. in the Piedmont Room, Student Center. Lunch will be provided. RSVP and learn about the other events for faculty and staff at

<http://c.gatech.edu/1gFMTyX>

The Web of Brilliance Employee Resource Group for faculty and staff who are introverts will be held at noon in the Student Center Ballroom. Find out more at

www.ohr.gatech.edu/erg

For a more comprehensive listing of events updated daily, visit

www.gatech.edu/calendar

CLASSIFIEDS

AUTOMOBILES

2005 Chevy Monte Carlo. 189,000 miles. \$3,500/negotiable. Good engine/tires. Call Aisha at 678-777-8179 or email aishagaddis@hotmail.com.

1994 Chevrolet Corvette in good condition. 92,000 miles. Asking \$9,000. Call 678-637-4323 or 404-604-5823.

2007 Prius. 79,000 miles. Excellent condition, smoke and pet free. Clean title. Backup camera, bluetooth connection, and radio/CD/aux music system. Very fuel efficient. \$13,000 OBO. Contact 402-594-4466 or globtrotty@gmail.com.

2001 Honda CR-V EX AWD, 142,000 miles, very good condition, clean maintenance record, new tires, forest green, CD player. \$5,200. Call Paul at 404-217-5292.

1991 Harley-Davidson XLH883 Sportster motorcycle. 28,300 miles, five-speed, belt drive, black. \$2,200. Call 404-894-9599 or email joe.mckee@oit.gatech.edu.

2008 ACURA RDX AWD with tech package, 73,000 miles, bronze pearl, navigation, sun roof, backup camera, satellite radio, leather, dealer maintained, power seats/windows, roof rack, and more. Excellent condition! \$17,900. Email ad31@facilities.gatech.edu

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Bader's Love for Teaching Goes Way Back

AMELIA PAVLIK
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

It's around 9:30 a.m. on a Thursday, and David Bader is explaining how trick-or-treating is connected to graph theory.

"For example, we get together with our friends to figure out which houses to go to for optimal candy rewards — and optimization is one component of graph theory," said Bader, professor and executive director for

"When I was in elementary school ... I began holding computer retraining classes for the parents of my friends and neighbors who were being laid off from a nearby steel plant."

High Performance Computing. "And when you get home, you sort your candy — yet another concept. We should consider October graph theory month."

Welcome to Bader's Computational Science and Engineering Algorithms class — and his approach to teaching.

"When I prepare for class, I think about the story I'm going to tell and try to incorporate cur-

rent events and real-world cases into the curriculum," he said.

But these skills didn't develop overnight.

FROM TECHIE TODDLER TO FULL PROF

It began in 1972, when Bader started playing around on a mainframe computer at the college where his dad worked. He was 3.

"Then, when I was in elementary school in the late 1970s, I began holding computer retraining classes for the parents of my friends and neighbors who were being laid off from a nearby steel plant and were looking for a new profession," he added. "Things just seemed to evolve from there."

After spending time at the University of Maryland as a National Science Foundation postdoctoral research associate, Bader began working his way through the professorial ranks at the University of Mexico in the late 1990s. He was recruited to Georgia Tech in 2005 to launch the School of Computational Science and Engineering.

Bader's research aims to solve real-world problems by using computational and data-intensive solutions.

For example, Bader might use massive data sets to help him figure out how to keep people safer during severe weather or how to design more personalized medications.

"I love that my job is fun," he said. "I can't believe I get paid to collaborate with the most amazing students and colleagues, and solve grand challenge problems that have a lasting impact on society."

THE MAN BEHIND THE MONITOR

When Bader isn't conducting research or teaching, you might find him enjoying one of his favorite spots on campus, the Klaus Advanced Computing Building.



David Bader

"It's just a beautiful facility that inspires me to make contributions to computing and to think about the impact of my research on society," he added.

Or you might catch this vegan enjoying the various dining spots around campus to try their takes on international cuisines ranging from African to Asian.

And one last fun fact about this computing wiz — he also has a strong interest in genomics (simply put, the study of genes and their functions).

"Many people might not be aware that I have a twin sister — who happened to earn her doctorate in genetics," he said. "My full mitochondrial genome is even available in GenBank, a database that contains publicly available DNA sequences."

CLASSIFIEDS

REAL ESTATE/ ROOMMATES

Lovely 1,050 sq. ft. 2BR/1BA garden apartment with fenced yard in Ansley Park for rent. Off-street parking. Walking distance to Piedmont Park and the High Museum. 10-minute drive to Tech. \$1,400/mo. Email 53theprado@gmail.com.

For rent: 3BR/2BA bungalow, minutes to Tech, quiet in-town neighborhood (NW ATL), HW floors (carpet in bedrooms), gas FP, central HVAC, granite/stainless/cherry kitchen, gas stove, DW, disposal, alarm system, fenced back yard, W/D connections, pets OK. \$1,250/mo. Contact suzanne.bock@gatech.edu.

3BR/large bonus room/2.5BA 2,543 sq. ft. cul-de-sac house (quiet neighborhood) rents (\$1,250) or sells (less than \$179,000), available now. Customer-driven. Tech relocation. Hardwoods and neutral plush carpet; privacy-fenced backyard; master and laundry on main. Only 17 miles from Tech (off I-20). Call 404-384-5571.

1BR/1BA modern condo for rent in heart of Buckhead. Interior entry in quiet building. One block off Peachtree Road, walking distance to two MARTA stops, retail, dining, multiple grocery stores. \$1,000/mo. includes water/trash/electric/parking. Email kristenshaw@gmail.com or call 404-414-0981.

2 BR sublease in Arts Center Tower Apartments, available Nov. 18, 2013 to March 10, 2014. Rent is \$1,545. Conveniently located in Midtown and next to Marta. Call 650-336-3519.

MISCELLANEOUS

Brand new, unopened box, Canon Inkjet Photocopier PIXMA iP2702 black and white/color printer. Compatible with Windows 8, Vista, XP, and 2000. Price \$40. Call 404-894-7527.

Orion Skyquest XT6 Dobsonian Reflector Telescope with stand and case. Asking \$350. Pretty, six-drawer, wood vanity and mirror, \$75. Photo on request. Contact 404-892-7802 or cc60@gatech.edu.

Baldwin Pianovelle PS1500 digital console piano with bench, dark rosewood finish, more than 400 studio-quality sounds (pianos, organs, strings, brass, bass, and percussion). Multi-track MIDI playback and recording. Manual included. \$975. Email radaman316@gmail.com.

Looking for partner(s) to join a guided climb of Mt. McKinley (Denali) during June or July 2014. Interested? Contact jgfgwang@gmail.com.

Fancy chest of drawers with rounded-top doors closing over the top. Three drawers. Two larger bottom drawers. Top of chest is bell shaped. Furniture stores sell lower quality for \$800 and up. \$350 or make an offer. Call 678-429-4964 or email lynchpen@windstream.net.

Free black and white bunny available for immediate adoption. The bunny is in excellent health and friendly. Cage and food provided. Email lubinsky@math.gatech.edu.

Several beautifully framed paintings for home or office including a Thomas Blackshear painting; the Prayer of Jabez; The 10 Commandments; and a large portrait featuring famous African-American writers and poets. Call 404-642-1263.

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.

Get Discounted Software for Personal Use

INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

If you've ever tried to buy Adobe or Microsoft software — think Photoshop or Microsoft Word — you know it's not cheap. That's where a program offered by the University System of Georgia (USG) comes in handy.

The Software Resource and Services (SRS) personal software store was created to provide USG faculty, staff, and students with discounted, brand-name software for personal use. (Georgia Tech does offer free software downloads for certain programs that are used for work purposes.)

"The store was created back in 2011 and was initially only available to some institutions in the system," said Jack Delinsky, director of SRS. "But now all USG colleges and universities participate."

Read on for more about the personal store.

How do you determine an item's price?

SRS compares it against online stores such as Amazon.com and lowers it as much as possible. Depending on the cost we can get from the distributor, it can vary greatly. If we can't provide the best price, based on our research or input from employees and students, we won't put the item in our store.

What do I need to make a purchase?

An account and a credit card. (Accounts

Microsoft and Adobe programs are some of the most popular items sold in the personal store.

are established using your Tech email, which will serve as your account ID.)

Can people download software online?

Many of our products are available for download — meaning you don't have to wait for us to ship you discs.

Can I continue to use software purchased in the store if I leave the USG?

If you are purchasing something from the personal store, the license is yours to keep, even if you leave a system institution.

How does the full version of software differ from the student/educator version?

The version for students/educators is often a slimmed down version offered at a lower price. In our case, we usually just offer the full version, because we can offer it at a lower cost than what the student/educator version would normally cost.

For more information about software available from the SRS personal store, visit

www.srs.usg.edu