

Georgia
Tech

THE Whistle



PEOPLE

Georgia Tech professor tapped for TVA board

Georgia Tech Professor Marilyn Brown has been nominated by President Barack Obama to serve on the Tennessee Valley Authority's Board of Directors. (*Atlanta Business Chronicle*)

<http://tinyurl.com/yawqwhc>

RESEARCH

Waste tracking

The current system of curbside recycling hasn't kept pace with today's stream of high-tech garbage. But now, a prototype technology called Smart Trash aims to better manage all forms of waste that carry product ID tags. (*New York Times Magazine*)

<http://tinyurl.com/yetufx9>

NEWS

Scientists, lawyers mull effects of home robots

Ronald Arkin teaches a course on robots and society at Georgia Tech and directs the school's Mobile Robot Laboratory. His most recent book is titled "Governing Lethal Behavior in Autonomous Robots." (*Washington Post*)

<http://tinyurl.com/yadf4nw>

EVENTS

ARTS & CULTURE

January 17

The Moscow State Radio Symphony Orchestra will perform at the Ferst Center for the Arts at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$20, \$30 and \$40, or \$20, \$24 and \$32 with a subscription.

www.ferstcenter.gatech.edu

FACULTY/STAFF DEVELOPMENT

February 1

Nominations for the Don Bratcher Human Relations Award are being accepted until Feb. 1. The award, recognizing campus community members for exemplary human relations work, grants one faculty and one staff member \$3,000 and one undergraduate or graduate student \$1,500.

www.ohr.gatech.edu/2010donbratcher

Ongoing

Georgia Tech Training Services offers a Web-based tutorial on the basics of using a state purchasing card (p-card).

www.orgdev.gatech.edu/training/

The "Emergency Preparedness" certificate program, which consists of several smaller courses, including "Fire Safety" and "Facilities Hazard Training," provides faculty and staff with valuable information in case of a campus emergency.

www.orgdev.gatech.edu

Calendar continues on page 2

Inner strength

College of Architecture elevates programs to schools

TERI NAGEL
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE

After the College of Architecture recently celebrated its centennial, the Institute announces the college's academic programs will be re-established as five schools.

The schools of Architecture, Construction, City and Regional Planning, Industrial Design and Music will continue the College of Architecture's momentum to strengthen its disciplines, improve its graduate and undergraduate student experiences, and fortify its research agenda.

"The timing is auspicious and I am convinced the move to schools supports our ambitions to clarify and strengthen the character of the College," said Dean Alan Balfour.

"It matches the scale and reputation of our disciplines and solidifies their identities within the designed and built environment professions. And it is appropriate to make this move now as we participate in the Institute's strategic planning process



Alan Balfour

and envision what the College will look like in 25 years."

About the Schools

The School of Architecture is one of the top three producers of architectural research in the nation. Its unique strengths in urban design and design computing frequently win students and faculty top spots in national and international design competitions.

The School of Construction is a leading force of innovation in facility management, project delivery and construction development. It is the fastest growing among Schools in the College of Architecture, almost doubling in size in the last decade.

With the support of two preeminent research centers, the Center for Quality

TIMELINE

1908
Architecture Department established within Engineering.

1948
Department of Architecture becomes School of Architecture, still within the College of Engineering.

1958
Degrees in the School of Architecture included architecture, building construction, city planning and industrial design.

1975
School becomes the College of Architecture, with degrees becoming programs. A doctoral program is added shortly after.

1991
Music Department is added.

2009
Programs become schools within the College of Architecture.

Growth and Regional Development and the Center for Geographic Information Systems, the School of City and Regional Planning is consistently ranked among the nation's top programs in city planning.

The School of Industrial Design is in an exciting period of renewal, with an active search for the Chair and for an endowed professorship linking Industrial Design with Mechanical Engineering. This leadership will be charged with charting a course for the newly established

School, taking full advantage of its natural and existing alliances with Georgia Tech programs in management, engineering,

SCHOOLS, continued on page 4

Digital security

OIT publishes computer security tips for the Winter Break

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Semester breaks are a time when the Tech community vacates campus offices and residence halls, leaving thousands of desktop computers unattended.

The Office of Information Technology offers the following tips to take appropriate measures to keep your computer, your files and our network safe.

- If you own a laptop, please be mindful of where it is at all times. Do not walk away and leave it unattended in a public place. This includes leaving it in a locked automobile. Laptops are a thief's prime targets this time of year.

- Unless instructed otherwise by your unit's technical staff, please turn off your GT-provided computer during the break. Personal computers should be taken home during



the break.

- If you choose to leave your GT-provided computer ON, please make sure that your office/work area is physically locked, all accounts are logged off, and any peripherals (monitors, printers, scanners) are turned off.

- If your machine must remain on and you cannot log out of your machine before leaving, make sure that you

SECURE, continued on page 3

Timed test

CULC Prototype Classroom to be used for spring semester

ROBERT NESMITH
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

A cross-campus partnership has converted a room in the Engineering Science and Mechanics Building into a smaller prototype of two planned Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons classrooms designed to alter pedagogy.

The room will be used across multiple disciplines—including engineering, biology, modern languages and English—as well as by the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning.

Based on the SCALE-UP (Student-Centered Activities for Large Enrollment Undergraduate Programs) model developed at North Carolina State by Robert Beichner, the CULC Prototype Classroom has no "teaching wall," according to Sejal Patel in Capital Planning and Space Management.

Instead, writing surfaces will be on all four walls, and three plasma screens will be mounted on two of the walls. Students will be arranged in three groups of nine, each group virtually linked to one of the screens.

"The furniture is arranged in groups, for 27 total students," Patel said. "In the CULC, the classrooms will

CLASSROOM, continued on page 2

EVENTS

Ongoing (continued)

The "Defining Customer Service" certificate program provides campus groups and employees with the foundation for offering exemplary service to those both on and off the campus. Four required courses and two electives are offered. www.orgdev.gatech.edu

MISCELLANEOUS

December 12-16

The Georgia Tech Department of Housing is collecting items for the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation during the holiday season. www.resnet.gatech.edu

December 11 —January 6

Junior's Grill will be closed through the Winter Break. The restaurant reopens for breakfast on Thursday, Jan. 7. www.juniors.gatech.edu

Ongoing

CATEA (Center for Assistive Technology and Environmental Access) seeks full-time employees with a mobility disability to take part in telephone interviews. Participants will be reimbursed. Call Claire Yang at 385-8589 or e-mail her at hsiang-yu.yang@coa.gatech.edu.

The Campus Recreation Center is offering Sun Tai Chi classes every Tuesday and Thursday from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. www.crc.gatech.edu

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

CLASSIFIEDS

AUTOMOBILES/ MOTORCYCLES

1994 Vulcan 750 motorcycle. \$2,700, OBO. E-mail mvh14_1@hotmail.com for pics and info.

2007 Toyota Corolla. Burgundy, tan/wood grain interior. 36K miles. Airbags, exc. maintenance history. \$13,100, OBO. Pics avail. E-mail walterdc9@gmail.com.

Seeking a small reliable car for a college student in the price range of \$1,000-\$1,500. E-mail Vince at photopro44@yahoo.com.

1997 Subaru Outback Wagon, red 5-spd, 133K miles, exc. cond., \$4,000. E-mail whrinatl@aol.com.

REAL ESTATE/ ROOMMATES

1BR/1BA, 8th floor unit of Windsor Over Peachtree. \$1,180 a month, incl. utilities. Close to restaurants and night clubs. Walk to Tech or Piedmont Park. Easy access to interstates, and MARTA is only a block away. Spectacular views of the Fox, midtown and pool. 24-hour concierge, gated parking commons areas. Call Rick at 770-366-4174.

3BR/2BA all brick ranch with HW floors. Large fenced-in back yard w/ woods. Finished daylight basement. 2-car carport with garage door. Briarlake school district and convenient to Emory/CDC, I-85,

Classifieds continue on page 3

Research

Scraping the sky

'Towers' on solar cells could provide significant boost in energy production

JOHN TOON
RESEARCH NEWS

A three-dimensional solar cell design developed at the Georgia Tech Research Institute that uses micron-scale "towers" to capture nearly three times as much light as flat solar cells made from the same materials has been awarded broad patent protection in both China and Australia.

The "three-dimensional multi-junction photovoltaic device" uses its 3-D surface structure to increase the likelihood that every photon striking it will produce energy. Modeling suggests that the 3-D cell could boost power production by as much as 300 percent compared to conventional solar cells.

The 3-D solar cells were developed in the laboratory of Jud Ready, a GTRI senior research engineer. Tests comparing the 3-D solar cells produced in Ready's lab with traditional planar cells produced from the same materials showed an increase in power generation, said Tom Smith, president of 3-D Solar LLC, a company formed to commercialize the cells.

The researchers chose to make their prototype cells from cadmium materials because they were familiar with them from other research. However, a broad range of photovoltaic materials could also be used, and selecting the best material for specific applications will be the goal of future research.

Fabrication of the cells begins with a silicon wafer, which also serves as the solar cell's bottom junction. The researchers first coat the wafer with a thin layer of iron using a photolithography process that can create a wide variety of patterns. The patterned wafer is then placed into a furnace heated to



Georgia Tech Research Institute Senior Research Engineer Jud Ready shows an example of the three-dimensional solar he developed at GTRI. The solar cells, above, when magnified show micron-scale 'towers' to more efficiently capture light.



Images courtesy GTRI

approximately 700 degrees Celsius.

Hydrocarbon gases are then flowed into the furnace, where the carbon and hydrogen separate. In a process known as chemical vapor deposition, the carbon grows arrays of multi-walled carbon nanotubes atop the patterns created by the iron particles.

The arrays of towers on the 3-D solar cell can increase the surface area by several thousand percent, depending on the size and density of the structures.

"One problem with conventional flat solar cells is that the sunlight hits a flat surface and can bounce off, so the light only has one chance to be absorbed and turned into electricity," said John Bacon, president of IP2Biz, an Atlanta company that has licensed the technology. "In the GTRI 3-D solar cell, we build a nanometer-scale version of Manhattan, with streets and avenues of tiny light-capturing structures similar to tall buildings. The sunlight bounces from building to building and produces more electricity."

The structure also means that the cells

don't have to be aimed directly at the sun to capture sunlight efficiently, Bacon added. Conventional solar cells work best when the sunlight hits them at a narrow range of angles, but the new 3-D system remains efficient regardless of the angle at which the light hits.

The tower structures on the GTRI solar cells are about 100 microns tall, 40 microns by 40 microns square, 50 microns apart — and grown from arrays containing millions of vertically aligned carbon nanotubes. The nanotubes primarily serve as the structure on which current-generating photovoltaic p/n coatings are applied.

"The carbon nanotubes are like the framing inside of buildings, and the photovoltaic materials are like the outer skin of the buildings," Smith said. "Within the three-dimensional structures, multiple materials could be used to create the physical framing. Carbon nanotubes were used in the original solar cells, but they are not required for the technology to work."

CLASSROOM, continued from page 1

accommodate 30 and 45 students. We're testing these important things with this small-scale room: the furniture, the technology, the lighting and the pedagogy."

National company Tidebreak is sponsoring a year's license to its software ClassSpot, which allows students to connect their laptops to the professor's, or vice versa, for true team-based collaboration. "We currently don't have an application like this on campus," Patel said. "The idea is that there is no teaching wall. The technology transforms teacher-centric presentation classrooms into interactive, flexible spaces, allowing full participation by students."

CETL Director Donna Llewellyn invited campus partners in an e-mail to test the classroom, as it is unique on the Tech campus. "We would like to learn as much as possible [from using the classroom] during the spring and summer semesters so that we can take these lessons to help us in the outfitting of the Clough Commons," she wrote, asking for their help in measuring the teaching methods enhanced by the room's unique design.

A campus "open house," with demonstrations of the room's technology and unique design, is planned for Jan. 7 and 8, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Capital Planning and Space Management, CETL, the Office of Information Technology and Facilities have sponsored the prototype classroom, located in room G-8 of the ESM building.



The TEAL Project, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Two classrooms in the Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons will utilize the SCALE-UP classroom model (example above), developed at the North Carolina State University. A prototype classroom will be used during spring semester in the Engineering Science and Mechanics Building.

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Georgia Tech's
Faculty/Staff Newspaper

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Editor: Robert Nesmith
Photos: Rob Felt, unless noted

Calendar submissions e-mailed to editor@comm.gatech.edu, or faxed to 404-894-7214 must be sent at least 10 days prior to desired publication date. Classified submissions are on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, call 404-385-4142.

Archived issues of The Whistle can be accessed electronically through the Georgia Tech Web page, or directly at www.whistle.gatech.edu.

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Working out for the best

Panel discussion highlights students presenting Computing For Good projects

ROBERT NESMITH
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Students in the Computing For Good (C4G) class recently presented their semester-long projects, in which they put their computing skills to work in finding philanthropic solutions to present challenges.

Self-sustaining wireless networks for disaster-stricken and developing regions, a system that monitors the amount and quality of donated blood in developing areas, and enhancements that improve sustainability and streamline the Web-based Homeless Shelter Occupancy system of United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta were just a few of the projects presented.

Co-founded in spring 2008 by School of Computer Science Distinguished Professor Santosh Vempala, School of Computer Science Chair Ellen Zegura and School of International Affairs Assistant Professor Michael Best, C4G presented nearly 24 graduate and undergraduate students with challenges in public health, society and politics.

A total of 40 students—26 seniors and 14 graduate students—participated in the fall semester class, taught by Vempala and Zegura. From the classroom partners, a set of project ideas was lined up before the start of the course. “I had been working over the past year with the CDC [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention], the United Way [of Metropolitan Atlanta] and Operation PEACE, all of whom were eager to contribute projects,” he said. “Of the 12 projects this year, five are already in deployment and being used at some level by partners, and four more are in [the] evaluation/refinement [stage] and

are likely to be deployed soon.”

Projects selected by students were required to directly solve a problem faced by one of the classroom partners and provide a tangible benefit. “In most cases, it took some work to figure out the exact problem and several iterations to arrive at a satisfactory solution,” Vempala said. “In some cases, we had to address unsolved research questions. Partners were generous with their time and efforts, especially in coordinating the many non-technical aspects of the projects.”

Vempala said that during the course’s first month, the class partners gave presentations to the students, during which class members indicated their interests and talents on a wiki. “By the end of the month, students indicated their top three preferences,” he said. “After some deliberation, we ensured that everyone got at least their second choice and most got their first choice.”



Santosh Vempala



Ellen Zegura



Michael Best

Following the students’ poster session, a panel discussion presented questions to four individuals who have devoted their personal and professional lives to helping solve some of society’s problems—both on the local and international scale. Jack Hardin is co-founder of the law firm Rogers & Hardin and is the former co-chair of the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta. He also is chair of Gateway, which works to aid Atlanta’s homeless populations. Calcutta native and architect Protip Biswas is the executive director of the Regional Commission on Homelessness. Jason Carter is founder of Democrats Work and chair of the Young Professionals Council at Georgia Appleseed. The grandson of President Jimmy Carter, he also spent two years in the Peace Corps in South Africa. John Nkengasong

is chief of the CDC’s Global AIDS Program’s International Laboratory Branch.

The panelists spoke on their motivations for helping others and answered questions from those in attendance. Overall, the four spoke on the need for present-day computing’s power to aid in creating databases for realizing and quantifying problems and the advent of social networking, as well as stating how important it is to make programs such as C4G sustainable. “The culture of volunteerism should be institutional,” Hardin said.

“These are hard problems, and we don’t know how to solve them yet,” Vempala said. “[This semester] the students have made some tremendous progress.”

For more information

www.cc.gatech.edu



While some projects spanned the globe, a group of three students worked with Tech’s Office of Solid Waste Management and Recycling on GeT Green, a project to redesign the office’s Web site.

Aesthetically, the site was designed to echo the Georgia Tech home page, and the group also incorporated a Google Maps applet displaying the locations of individual recycling bins around campus. Interactive graphs were incorporated into the redesign, so users can quickly view what and how much of each item was recycled during the last 13 months.

While team members didn’t have time for a complete build-out, they were able to create easy-to-use tools allowing members of Recycling Services to upload information to the Web site more easily. The new site is scheduled to launch next semester.

e-mail. As a matter of fact, OIT highly recommends not storing (or at least limiting) personal information on laptops.

■ Many passwords are due to expire during the break. Be sure to change your password before it expires so you do not have any service interruption. If you forget your password, you can reset it yourself by having security hints defined in PassPort. To set up questions or reset your password, go to <http://passport.gatech.edu>.

In addition to these security tips from OIT’s Information Security team and the ResNet Office, the IT support staff for each department or office may provide security-related services, such as software installation or security patch updates. If so, check with each department’s local IT support staff.

For more information

www.oit.gatech.edu

CLASSIFIEDS

I-285. Pets OK with approval. \$1,300 rent with first month’s deposit. E-mail richard.catrambone@psych.gatech.edu.

Rent or sell: Marietta 3BR/2BA ranch, 2-car carport, partial basement. HW floors, tiled kitchen and baths. Approx. 2,000 sq. ft. Fenced private yard, quiet neighborhood. Convenient to I-75. \$1,195/mo., \$1,200 deposit, 1-yr lease. Call Mickey Register at 678-488-1845 or e-mail mickey.register@comcast.net.

For rent: 2BR/1BA in Howell Station, west of Tech. 1,350-sq.-ft. bungalow, large office or bonus room, large living and separate dining rooms. Off-street parking. W/D included. Pets OK. \$1,000/mo. Call 404-792-7777 or e-mail grahamt@oit.gatech.edu.

2BR/2BA condo, bonus room connected to terrace. Clean, high-quality modernist style. Granite, stainless, great amenities, located in Decatur at 335 W Ponce. MARTA within walking distance, surrounded by shops and cafes. Great sq. footage. Call Ty at 254-541-6450 or e-mail ty@gatech.edu.

For rent: 1BR/1BA loft in Cabbagetown. Gated community. Granite, hardwoods, open floor plan. Includes 1 parking space, washer/dryer, DirecTV, pool, clubhouse, 24-hour gym. \$995/mo. \$500 security deposit. Call Katie at 404-819-9040.

Rooms for rent: 3BR/3.5BA, fully furnished with 4-space carport and back yard on almost 1 acre in Lithonia, close to Stn. Mtn. Park and Stonecrest Mall. Individual rooms are \$450 per room with utilities. Call 404-316-9682.

1BR/1BA, \$775 a month, near Piedmont Park. Walk to area restaurants and night clubs. HW floors and off-street parking. true separate 1BR unit. Water incl. in rent. Call Sabrina at 678-315-9648 or Rick at 770-366-4174.

2BR/2BA, 1,400-sq-ft condo for rent. Great room, sun room, dining room, kitchen, w/d connection, fresh paint and new carpet. Electricity and gas not incl. \$900 month, \$800 deposit. 2.4 miles from Doraville MARTA station. Call 770-939-0671 or 770-205-0175.

FURNITURE/APPLIANCES

Office refrigerator, white, 14.4 cubic ft. Purchased March 2008 for minimal office use. \$300 or reasonable offer. Call Barbara at 404-385-2360 or e-mail barbara.miller@gatech.edu.

Hardwood futon w/ mattress. \$350 (\$800 new). Frame is solid hardwood with mission-style detailing. Mattress is 8” thick foam, firm. Handsome sofa, also makes perfect occasional guest bed for 2 people. Red mattress cover. E-mail nirmal.trivedi@lcc.gatech.edu for pics. Cash only, must be picked up from Midtown location.

Dining room table. Glass top with cast iron support. Asking \$100 OBO. E-mail beverly.brown@coa.gatech.edu for pic.

MISCELLANEOUS

Dell XPS M2010 Mobile PC. \$2,000. Intel Core 2 Duo processor (2GHz), 20-inch display, SoundBlaster Audigy, 8 built-in speakers w/ subwoofer, slot-loading DVD burner, Bluetooth wireless keyboard/mouse. Two 160 GB SATA drives (RAID 1), 2GB RAM, edia Center remote control, Web camera, 256MB ATI Radeon X1800 graphics card, Vista Ultimate (32-bit), Office 2007 small business edition. Call Chuck at 404-610-9090 or e-mail chuck@myloopyfamily.com.

Free yellow jacket nest removal. Nests to be used for research at Tech. Call 385-6311 or e-mail michael.goodisman@biology.gatech.edu.

Check out more ads at www.whistle.gatech.edu.

Ads appear and run for three weeks in the order in which they are received.

E-mail submissions to editor@comm.gatech.edu.

SECURE, continued from page 1

either enable a screensaver with password protection or LOCK your computer when you leave. Windows users can select a password-protected screensaver from Start > Control Panel > Display > Screensaver. Windows users can LOCK their computers by pressing the Windows Key + L. Apple users should simply log out or set up a password-protected screensaver and activate it.

■ Check with the CSR (technical lead) to make sure that a computer receives security updates and has the necessary security software installed (i.e. antivirus). On personal computers, users should make sure that they have the GT-provided anti-virus software suite (McAfee) installed. If not, download it for free from the OIT software distribution site: www.oit.gatech.edu/software/.

■ For additional protection, users can optionally back up

OIT warns of new phishing scam

The Office of Information Technology has seen a new type of phishing attack on campus. This scam is intended to trick users into providing their GT login credentials.

The e-mail message asks users to log into a malicious site hosted at “pacnet-servers.co.cc” and update their account information. Georgia Tech Information Security is notifying all members of the GT community to ignore this e-mail and not to visit the site.

OIT reminds the Tech community that the official Georgia Tech mail page is located at mail.gatech.edu (you may also use my.gatech.edu or webmail.mail.gatech.edu, which are also perfectly valid), and that Georgia Tech will never ask for a username/password over e-mail or send users to a site off campus to verify account details.

Those who have clicked on the bad link listed above and visited the site should call the OIT Technology Support Center at 404-894-7173 immediately to receive assistance with resetting account information.

their workstations or servers and verify their ability to restore backups prior to leaving campus. This will be valuable in case of any type of system malfunction or failure that may occur

during the break.

■ Identity theft is highest this time of year. Many of these frauds will be perpetrated by e-mail. Do not disclose any person or sensitive information over

Conflict resolution

Institute ombuds program offers ear for confidential, alternate resolutions

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Tech's ombuds program is a confidential, neutral, informal and independent conflict resolution and management resource open to assist any member of the Georgia Tech community.

Georgia Tech classified staff ombudsman John Schultz has held this position since January 2006, drawing on his extensive background of both employee relations and as a corporate ombudsman.

Following are some questions and answers about his philosophy, his work and his experience.

Can you give us some of your background?

I graduated from St. Johns University in New York in 1973 with a BA in Government/Politics.

My first job out of college was as a budget planner for Grumman Aerospace on Long Island in 1974. I then worked for several different aerospace companies as a financial analyst, an industrial engineer, a manager of internal controls, manager of program planning and control, ombudsman and employee relations manager.

My human resources background has really benefited me a lot and has been augmented by my further schooling in mediation and alternative dispute resolution. I still mediate for the court system in Gwinnett County, and I'm a member of the University System of Georgia chancellor's advisory group for all alternative dispute resolution issues. I'm also one of the senior mediators for the Board of Regents.

When did you start at Tech?

In June of 1998, I started as an employee relations coordinator, working for Russ Cappello. When I was there, Employee Relations basically handled employment concerns, disciplinary

actions, unemployment claims and the Georgia Tech Impartial Board of Review. We would reach out to interpret procedure and policy for management, and advise management on disciplinary steps to take in any issue. Employee Relations handled concerns/issues in a formal manner. I did that until June 2004.

When Russ retired, I assumed all of Employee Relations' duties until December 2005. I became the classified staff ombudsman in January 2006.

Why did you make the transition from Employee Relations to staff ombudsman?

I believed in the ombudsman concept and there was a specific job opening. Additionally, I had five years' previous ombudsman experience at Rockwell International's Tactical Systems Division in Duluth. When Dr. Jean Fuller, the previous GT staff ombudsman retired, I was appointed to the position by Chuck Donbaugh, AVP of Human Resources.

In August of 2008, the office moved into the Office of the President, reporting through the Office of the Provost.

Including myself, the campus has a total of four ombudsmen. We have a graduate student ombudsman, Professor Emeritus Russ Callen. Then there are two faculty ombuds, who also handle post-docs. They are Narl Davidson, a professor-emeritus and former associate dean for the College of Engineering, and Professor Emeritus Edward Thomas, former chair of the School of Physics. Although the other three ombuds are part-time, they are on campus regularly.



What are the benefits of the reorganization?

For an ombuds program to be effective for all Institute constituencies, it must report to the highest office.

How does the ombudsman process start?

Any individual may contact us through any means and can

make an appointment to see us. They can come at any point [in the process] they want. They can come when they initially have a problem, when they're in the middle of trying to get something done or toward the end. We allow them to basically vent, to say whatever they want to say. We're nonjudgmental, we listen and we present options to them on how to resolve their issues.

If indeed they want our direct intervention, we will inform them that they may lose their anonymity. However, none of us acts on their behalf until they are comfortable with what we intend to do. We try to empower them to get their supervisors involved because we can't actually fix their problem for them.

Specifically, what I normally do when employees come to me [is to] listen to them and try and empower them to do something for themselves. If not, I will tell them I need to get the person with whom they have the issue—their supervisor, co-worker, or other employee—involved. If they say OK, then I will approach the person from the standpoint "This person came to see me, they presented some concerns and I really would like to get your side of the story." This is especially effective in an

employee and supervisor issue because I know there are, at least, two sides to every story and I want to maintain my role as an advocate for fair and right vs. the employee or management advocate.

After getting the other side of the story, and if I feel it would help, I will suggest we either mediate or allow me to facilitate a conversation or discussion between [the two].

Can you talk about your caseload?

The four ombuds just presented our annual report to Provost Gary Schuster and Executive Vice President Steven Swant. From June 2008 through August 2009, we had about 165 cases total, but the majority were staff-related. Most of the staff cases deal with workplace disputes between supervisors and employees, and administrator/management counseling.

What are some caveats?

We are not an office of first notice. For example, if a young lady came to me and said she was being sexually harassed, we would listen to what she had to say, but if she really wanted it handled or resolved, or she wanted to put the Institute on formal notice, we would direct her to go to someone in Employee Relations Services.

If they don't follow our direction or guidance, they cannot come back and say "We put Georgia Tech on notice because we told the ombudsman." We'll tell them that we instructed them where to go to file a complaint but did not officially receive the complaint.

This is in an effort to keep confidentiality, because that is so tantamount to this whole process. Once you lose that, you really lose your effectiveness—people won't trust you. The biggest publicity we receive is by word-of-mouth.

For more of the conversation with Classified Staff Ombudsman John Schultz, visit the Georgia Tech News Room at www.gatech.edu/newsroom. Visit the Ombuds Program's Web site at www.provost.gatech.edu/units/ombuds.

SCHOOLS, continued from page 1

computing and the sciences.

The School of Music encompasses both the academic and service activities related to music on campus.

Though relatively new as an academic unit, music activities and programs are an essential part of the Georgia Tech experience with more than 1,200 students involved each year.

The Center for Music Technology was launched in 2008, transforming the way in which people compose, perform and listen to music. Since its launch, the center has spun off three new companies.

"The new structure reflects the natural maturation of the College," said Provost Gary Schuster. "Introducing schools does not affect operating costs or degrees offered, and the College of Architecture will work more effectively within the Georgia Tech community."

For more information

www.coa.gatech.edu

EVP for Research search committee named

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

As part of the senior academic leadership restructuring announced last month, President Bud Peterson has formed a search committee to identify the individual who will oversee Georgia Tech's substantial research enterprise.

The newly created executive vice president for research (EVPR) will report directly to the president and serve as a member of the president's cabinet.

The office will have overall responsibility for all research at Georgia Tech—faculty-based research as well as research conducted at GTRI and the Enterprise Innovation Institute—representing almost one-half of Georgia Tech's budget. College of Sciences Dean Paul Houston will chair the search committee.

"Our goal in forming this committee was to bring together a diverse group of interests, and

I want to thank each member of the committee for serving the Institute in this capacity," Houston said. "The executive vice president will be entrusted with managing Georgia Tech's research enterprise and will benefit from broad-based support within our research community."

In order for this individual to be in place prior to interviews with candidates for the provost position, the committee intends to conduct an internal search for the EVPR position, with the goal of having someone in place by March 2010.

The committee includes:

- Ron Arkin, professor and associate dean, College of Computing
- Barbara Boyan, professor and associate dean, College of Engineering
- Jorge Breton, program manager, Academic Affairs
- Baruch Feigenbaum, graduate student
- Dennis Folds, principal research scientist, Georgia Tech Research Institute
- Steve French, professor and

associate dean, College of Architecture

- Jilda Garton, associate vice provost, Research
- Joel Hercik, associate vice president, Financial Services
- Diana Hicks, professor and chair, School of Public Policy
- Robert Knotts, director, Federal Relations
- Seth Marder, professor, School of Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Bill Melvin, director, Sensors and Electromagnetic Applications Lab
- Sandra Slaughter, professor, College of Management
- Vigor Yang, professor and chair, School of Aerospace Engineering
- Chuck Donbaugh, associate vice president, Human Resources (ex officio)

Any nominations, recommendations or comments may be directed to Houston.

For more information

www.gatech.edu/president/EVPR.html

Online job system down during break

During the campus furlough period (Dec. 21 through Dec. 24) and the winter break (Dec. 25 through Jan. 2), the Office of Human Resources will take the online job bulletin and application system offline.

Beginning the afternoon of Dec. 18, potential applicants will not have the ability to view/apply for positions nor have access to their existing "My Jobs" account.

OHR is taking the system offline to prevent possible attacks and reduce the amount of customer support staff needed during the furlough and winter break periods. The system will be restored on Jan. 4, 2010.

For more information

www.ohr.gatech.edu