President to Host Leadership Town Halls

A series of three town hall events this spring will afford the campus community the opportunity to hear from and ask questions of not just the president, but several campus leaders.

President G.P. "Bud" Peterson will be at all three events in the Conversations with Senior Leadership series, co-hosting with other senior leaders on various topics affecting Georgia Tech and higher education. All faculty, staff, and students are invited to attend. Each session will begin with a brief presentation, followed by a question and answer session. Questions may also be submitted online in advance at president.gatech.edu.

The Future of Higher Education and Georgia Tech
Wednesday, March 1
11 a.m. to noon
Student Center Theater
Guest speaker: Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Rafael L. Bras

Research Priorities and Funding Opportunities in the New Federal Administration
Thursday, March 16
11 a.m. to noon
Ferst Center Lobby
Guest speakers: Steve Cross, executive vice president for Research and Robert Knotts, director of Federal Relations

Georgia Tech’s Campus Master Plan and Capital Improvements
Thursday, April 6
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta Seminar Room, Engineered Biosystems Building
Guest speaker: Steve Swant, executive vice president for Administration and Finance

Tech Honored for Campus Tree Program

The Arbor Day Foundation named Georgia Tech a Tree Campus USA for 2016. Tech’s latest tree projects include recycling trees and updating the campus tree inventory. c.gatech.edu/treecampus

Campus Community Mourns Loss of Lux

Renowned and acclaimed poet Thomas Lux, who anchored Poetry@Tech for 13 years, died Feb. 5 after a lengthy illness. He was 70. Read more about his life and work, as well as tributes from members of the Tech and poetry communities: c.gatech.edu/lux

Faculty Senate Discusses CIOS Changes, Leaves of Absence

The majority of the Faculty Senate’s Feb. 14 meeting was devoted to student-related matters and business, with several student guest speakers in attendance.

Two winners from the 2016 Three-Minute Thesis competition, Tesca Fitzgerald in interactive computing and Bharath Hebbe Madhusudhana in physics, shared their winning 180-second presentations for the group.

Nagela Nukuna, undergraduate Student Government Association (SGA) president, and Lindsey Eidson, undergraduate SGA’s vice president for academic affairs, shared a presentation that proposed changes to the release of data from the Course Instructor Opinion Survey (CIOS). SGA would like to have CIOS data appended to the SGA-maintained Course Critique portal, which students use to review information about courses and instructors when registering for classes. They would also like to have qualitative comments from the surveys shared with faculty supervisors.

Course Critique currently includes GPA distribution, class size, and instructor names. SGA would like to add averages from CIOS for the number of hours spent on a course, how prepared students were for the course, whether they felt the course's activities facilitated learning, and whether they felt the course was effective. Nukuna and Eidson noted that several peer institutions already share this information with students and faculty supervisors, with some universities...
EVENTS

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Through April
Employees can use their insurance to get a flu shot without an appointment every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 8 to 10 a.m. at the Stamps Health Services Pharmacy. health.gatech.edu

TRAINING

March 3
The Center for Teaching and Learning hosts a session on Evidence-Based Teaching for Future Faculty from 10:30 a.m. to noon in the Poetzl Room, Student Center. Register to attend at c.gatech.edu/evidenceteaching

March 9
The Counseling Center and LGBTQIA Resource Center host an LGBTQIA-focused session of the Question, Persuade, Refer suicide prevention training, from 6 to 8 p.m. in Room 102, College of Computing. RSVP at c.gatech.edu/upr

SEMINARS & LECTURES

Feb. 21
The School of Civil and Environmental Engineering hosts alumna Suzanne Shank for its Hyatt Distinguished Alumni Lecture. Shank has been called “Wall Street’s $2 trillion woman.” The event takes place from 11 a.m. to noon in Room 1133, Mason Building. cce.gatech.edu/hyatt

Feb. 24
The Race and Gender Colloquium Series will discuss The Golden Arches in Black America: Fast, Food, Gender, and Race in an Age of Crisis from noon to 1:30 p.m. in Room 104, Old Civil Engineering Building. hsec.gatech.edu

Feb. 28
The Center for the Study of Women, Science, and Technology presents its 2017 Distinguished Lecture with Alice M. Agogino, Roscoe and Elizabeth Hughes Chair in Mechanical Engineering at the University of California, Berkeley. Agogino will discuss Design for Social Impact: Gender and Ethnic Participation in STEM at 4 p.m. in the Clary Theatre, Bill Moore Student Success Center. Reception to follow. wst.gatech.edu

HR UPDATES

Performance Management Process
The annual performance review cycle for 2016 is underway, and employee evaluations should be completed and delivered to each employee by Friday, March 31. This applies to all employees — staff, academic, and research faculty, including but not limited to those in part-time and temporary positions, retiree-but-working, visiting faculty, and postdoctoral fellows.

Recommended Timeline for 2016 Review:
• March 1: Manager completes an Annual Evaluation for each direct report and schedules one-on-one conversation(s)
• March 31: Manager completes all Annual Evaluation conversations and provides a signed copy of the evaluation to their HR representative to be included in employee file.

Recommended Timeline for 2017 Goal Setting:
• Feb. 28: Manager disseminates overall goals and objectives to his or her team.
• March 31: Manager completes one-on-one conversation with each direct report, outlining individual performance objectives for the year.

Members Sought for Staff Council Committees
CARA-JOY WONG
STAFF COUNCIL

The Staff Council is looking to fill positions on all five of its standing committees, covering the areas of campus physical environment; communication; compensation and benefits; employee engagement; and employee health and well-being.

“The success of Staff Council hinges on the breadth and depth of its committee members,” said Laura Pusateri, special events manager in Institute Communications and Staff Council chair. “This year, we are excited for committee members to join Staff Council to not only guide the organization toward areas of focus, but also to become active, engaged participants for their eight-month term.”

Interested staff members should apply online by Friday, March 3. To be qualified to serve, staff should:
• Be a full-time or part-time (at least 20 hours per week) staff member.
• Have completed six months of service to Georgia Tech as of March 3, 2017.
• Be employed with an eligible staff title. (The following staff titles are ineligible to serve on the Council and, thereby, ineligible to serve on committees: Institute president, executive vice presidents, provost, vice presidents, associate vice presidents, dean of students, academic faculty, research faculty, and retirees.)
• Have support of his or her supervisor.
• Be able to spend three to five hours per month on committee work. Committee membership will begin in April 2017 and end in December 2017.

Each committee will have up to 13 members, including the committee chair. Because there are a limited number of spaces on the committees, interested staff should be specific in explaining their skills and desires for committee membership.

Even though staff members may only serve on one committee, staff are encouraged to apply for more than one committee, listing their preferences in order of interest.

Learn more about the work of the Staff Council’s committees at staffcouncil.gatech.edu/committees, and learn more about Staff Council at staffcouncil.gatech.edu
For Foster, Giving Back Runs in the Family

BEN WRIGHT
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Melody Foster has been at Georgia Tech a long time — 19 years. But there are some things that have been with her longer.

For Foster, assistant to the chair in the George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering, giving back has been a way of life since she was young.

Her mother was one of 14 kids, and her father was one of three. They encouraged Foster and her four siblings to do three things: Get educated, do great things, and give back.

“They always said, ‘To whom much is given, much is required,’” she said. Now, volunteerism and community engagement is a staple for Foster and her two sons, Daniel and Jacob. It has even helped one of them choose a career path.

How old are your kids, and how did you get them into volunteering?

My oldest son is 19 and is a first-year student at Georgia Southern University. The second is 16, and he’s in 11th grade. The first activities they ever saw me do were volunteer activities in their school. I’m a big believer that parents should always be active in the schools. Teachers have a huge job nowadays, and the teachers need help. There are so many different things they have to deal with and so many things they have to teach — if your child or their teacher never see your face in the school, it’s a different dynamic. So I’ve done reading, grading papers, coordinating school productions, or whatever. I’ve been a PTA officer and PTA president.

As they got older, we started going to nursing homes. One of my grandpas was in a nursing home and, because my family is so large, my grandpa was never alone when he was there. The doctors wouldn’t let him be at home, so we went to him around the clock.

We saw a lot of people with nobody to visit them, so even after my grandpa passed away, we went in to visit, read to people, or bring toiletries and socks — whatever they needed.

With the kids, they were active in our church youth group and they liked to sing, so we started going to the nursing home with our youth group to sing. They’d bring in gift baskets that they purchased with their allowance, and we’d visit three, or four, or five people. That’s kind of how they got started, and I hope it’s something they keep doing as they get older.

What other activities have you done with them?

One of our other activities is feeding the homeless with our family. It’s not just feeding — it’s my extended family, with my parents and siblings, and their kids, and everyone. One Thanksgiving we were standing around. It was cold and rainy, and I remember saying how thankful I was for wonderful parents who raised a close-knit family, and for a warm home with food on the table. I got to thinking about the homeless people we see in Atlanta, so I said, “Everyone has a story about us getting together to sit around the table on Christmas to eat and drink, how about we go out Christmas morning and we go feed the homeless?” They all looked at me and went, “Huh?”

So I told them we’d pick some safe areas, and that when everyone went Christmas shopping they needed to buy 10 hats, or 10 scarves, or 10 pairs of socks — something to help keep people warm. I said we’d take around a hot breakfast and something that could be saved for later.

Then I reached out to a friend of mine that had had this experience before and she help us get organized. The kids hadn’t really seen homeless people before, so they were nervous, but once they saw us older folks talking to them and sharing with them, that helped. My brother-in-law is a deacon so he and my father prayed with them. After that first time, my boys asked when we were doing it again. We did it the next year, and now we do it quarterly. Everyone contributes whether they can go or not. I hope they’re inspired to know that they have to give back. It doesn’t have to be that but it should be something.

Are there any other causes that are important to you?

On a personal level, I mentor in a big sister program in my church, and I see such a need for that. Teenagers need that help, especially some who don’t have a mother or father at home. I grew up with a mother and father around the house, and I know how important that is. Some of these kids don’t have either. They’re raised by grandparents or foster parents, and those are the kids I’m drawn to. It’s been a learning experience, and I get joy from that. I like working through my church because it’s not a big organization. You really feel like you’re making a difference and not getting lost in a crowd.

Another cause that’s important to us has to do with my youngest son. When he was seven days old, he went into cardiac arrest at the house. His heart stopped beating. We rushed him to the hospital, where they flew him to Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta. Three days later, they got him stabilized and did open heart surgery. So we started doing volunteer activities with Children’s, and that’s had an impact on my boys, especially Daniel. Daniel is 6’5” and has done sports his whole life, but he knew he didn’t want to go for sports. He knew he wasn’t going to go; he said he was done with that. He decided he wanted to be a pediatric physical therapist.

When we do hospital visits, kids are always in awe of his size, but then they get to know him and they love him. They love playing with “Mr. Daniel,” and he just blossoms around them. He talked to his school counselor and they chose this path together. I think those visits helped him find his career choice. Maybe he’ll still change his mind, but those visits opened up possibilities for him. He’s always taken to sports training as an athlete, and his volunteer activities gave him a way to put it to use.

It’s been wonderful to see the impact these experiences have had on my kids, and I’m glad they’re learning to give back and help others.

FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Raheem Beyah. Motorola Foundation Professor and associate chair for Strategic Initiatives and Innovation in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, was named an Emerging Scholar in the Jan. 26 edition of Diverse: Issues in Higher Education.

Nicole de Vries, application support analyst in Professional Education, earned the Adelle F. Reynolds Distinguished Faculty Chair Award from the University Professional and Continuing Education Association (UPCEA). Georgia Tech’s Online Master of Science in Computer Science also won the UPCEA Outstanding Program Award, for credit program Associate Professor Carol DiSalvo and Assistant Professor Chris Le Dantec, both in the School of Literature, Media, and Communication, are among the first recipients of Smart and Connected Communities Data Pilot Grants from the Institute for People and Technology.

Arkadi Nemirovski, John Hunter Chair and Professor in the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial & Systems Engineering, was elected to the National Academy of Engineering, cited for his work in developing efficient algorithms for large-scale convex optimization problems.

John R. Reynolds, professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry and Materials Science and Engineering, was named a 2017 Materials Research Society Fellow. Reynolds was recognized for his contributions in developing the materials science of co-polymerized polymers with electrochromic, redox charge storage, photovoltaic, and charge transporting properties.

Hina Wazir, DeGraffenreid F. Farris Januar Professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, earned the 2017 Outstanding Young Engineer Award from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers’ Microwave Theory and Techniques Society.

Ajit Voganathan, associate chair for Translational Research, Regents Professor, and Wallace H. Coulter Distinguished Faculty Chair in Biomedical Engineering, earned the Tamils’ Wallace H. Coulter Distinguished Faculty Chair in Translational Research, Regents Professor, and National Academy of Engineering, cited for his work in developing efficient algorithms for large-scale convex optimization problems.

For a more comprehensive listing of events, or to submit your own, visit calendar.gatech.edu.
Faculty Invited to Participate in Satisfaction Survey

AMELIA PAVLIK GRADUATE EDUCATION AND FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

Feedback on job satisfaction—that's what an upcoming survey aims to gather from academic faculty at Georgia Tech.

Starting Feb. 20, Georgia Tech faculty can participate in the Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education (COACHE) survey. The 25-minute confidential survey will capture the faculty experience in topics including teaching interdisciplinary work, collaboration, and appreciation and recognition.

“We want Georgia Tech to be a great place to work, and job satisfaction is key to ensuring that we continue to attract and retain the best and brightest scholars and teachers,” said Rafael L. Bras, provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs. “While the faculty participate in other surveys, this input is especially vital as this particular survey is designed to help us get a better picture of job satisfaction compared to faculty at our peer institutions.”

Unique links will be emailed to participating faculty members. COACHE won't use any name or email address for any purposes aside from this research, and no one beyond the Office of Institutional Research and Planning will have access to the unit-record data.

“We want faculty to rest assured that individuals can’t be identified,” said Susan Cozzens, vice provost for Graduate Education and Faculty Development. “This data won’t be meaningful if we don’t have broad participation. So, Dr. Bras and I both hope that everyone will provide their thoughts to help Tech continue on its path to being one of the best places for scholars to work.”

Once the survey closes in mid-April, the data will be analyzed and shared with the faculty community by late fall 2017. The COACHE survey has been part of a national program with the Harvard Graduate School of Education since 2003.

Questions can be submitted to Leslie Sharp, associate vice provost for Graduate Education and Faculty Development, at leslie.sharp@gatech.edu. For more information about COACHE, visit coache.gse.harvard.edu.

Annual Compliance Campaign Coming Down

BETHANY SCHUSTER HUMAN RESOURCES

Each year, Georgia Tech employees are required to affirm their understanding of the Institute’s and the University System of Georgia’s (USG) code of ethics, conflict of interest, and cybersecurity policies. All faculty, staff (including Tech Temps), and student workers must complete all compliance requirements between March 6 and April 7, 2017.

Visit “My Compliance Campaigns” at techworks.gatech.edu to learn more about these requirements and submit the required information. Employees do not have to complete all three compliance requirements in one sitting; they can be completed in multiple sittings. It should take less than 45 minutes to complete all of the training and compliance requirements.

Understanding your responsibilities as a public employee and member of the Georgia Tech community is important for maintaining ethical standards across the Institute. It also helps ensure the Institute remains compliant with federal and state laws.

Employees who do not comply by April 7, 2017, may receive a formal disciplinary notice from the Institute, and their access to Georgia Tech’s network may also be revoked. Questions can be submitted to ethics.ask@ohr.gatech.edu.

Healthy Space Opening Kicks off USG Challenge

CHRISTINE KAPURCH HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Georgia Tech Health & Well-Being is inviting the campus community to the grand opening of a Healthy Space on Friday, March 3, from noon to 1 p.m. on the second floor of the Student Center (across from the information desk).

President G. P. “Bad” Peterson will officially open the space and lead attendees on a wellness walk around Tech Green. The event will also include free chair massages provided by Campus Recreation, food from Dining Services, and the launch for the University System of Georgia’s (USG) HealthTrails Challenge, a six-week well-being virtual tracking competition for faculty and staff. This statewide competition among USG institutions encourages employees to participate in a 300-mile virtual competition where they track steps, water consumption, and acts of kindness. The winning institution will be treated to a celebration and presented with the USG Well-being trophy.

Healthy Space was created by Health & Well-Being.

The new Healthy Space is located on the second floor of the Student Center, across from the Information Desk.

Well-Being will provide the campus community with a comfortable, convenient location conducive to teaching and learning about health and well-being opportunities on campus. Healthy Space will also facilitate access to BlueCrossBlue Shield’s LiveHealth kiosk, provided by USG, which uses two-way video to connect patients with a U.S.-based board certified physician without scheduling an appointment.

To learn more about the Healthy Space and other Health & Well-Being initiatives, visit hwb.gatech.edu.

SENATE, from page 1

sharing even more data.

Faculty voiced support and opposition, with concerns being focused on the imperfect nature of CIOs as an evaluation tool. The proposal, which CFA is pursuing in response to findings from the provost’s Task Force on the Learning Environment, will go to the Faculty Executive Board to determine how and whether it will move forward. Susan Cozzens, vice provost for Graduate Education and Faculty Development, noted that the Center for Teaching and Learning is supportive, but it would require a change to the Faculty Handbook.

President G. P. “Bad” Peterson made announcement mentioning undergraduate application numbers (which topped 33,000 for the first time this year) and the current legislative session. Tech’s top priority this session is to secure funding for the LibraryNEXT project. Funding for the remainder of the project was included in Governor Nathan Deal’s recommended budget, which is currently moving through the legislative chambers.

Leslie Sharp, associate vice provost for Graduate Education and Faculty Development, encouraged faculty to continue the upcoming Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education (COACHE) survey if they receive it (more at left).

Elena Garcia, research engineer in the Aerospace Systems Design Laboratory and nominations committee chair, also encouraged nominations for upcoming elections to Faculty Governance committees (more on Page 2).

Among items proposed by the Institute Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (IUCC), a new course code, SLS, for Serve-Learn-Sustain courses. Rhet Mayor, associate professor in manufacturing and IUCC chair, said the group discussed the code addition at great length before ultimately deciding it was the best course of action to designate the two existing SLS courses and future additions. A faculty committee will be established in the Center for Serve-Learn-Sustain to evaluate courses that request the SLS code, as a step prior to consideration by the provost’s Curriculum Committee. IUCC.

The Institute Graduate Curriculum Committee presented a new certificate program from the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering for a certificate in bioinformatics.

The Student Regulations Committee presented an addition to the Institute’s Withdrawal from School and Readmission Policy that accommodates for leaves of absence. The new section addresses the needs of students who may have an interruption in enrollment due to circumstances beyond their control, such as military service.

For complete meeting notes and presentations, visit faculgygovernance.gatech.edu.

REAL ESTATE/ROOMMATES

Female roommate (student, administrator, or professor) wanted to share apartment in Sitatua in Mallowton from now through May. Contact 404-578-4168.

Roommate (student, administrator, or professor) wanted to share home in Acworth. Furnished room with private bathroom, cable, and all utilities included. $650/month. Contact 423-760-6275.

Visiting scholar from Germany seeking sublease for apartment near Tech from April–September. Contact johannes.nistl@tum.de.

4BR/3BA house for rent in Oak Grove district. Easy access to Tech, Emory, CDC. Sunroom, fenced backyard, play structure, two-car garage, walking distance to Oak Grove Elementary and Lakeside Christian School. Great neighborhood. $2,800/month. Contact Olga, 323-229-3180, olgasnegrov2006@gmail.com.

2BR/2 BA house for rent in East Cobb/Marietta (30068). Sunroom, enclosed patio, two-car garage, pool, Lawn. Grounds maintained by HOA. Near wonderful shops and restaurants at The Avenue. Fully furnished and includes utilities, $1,350/month. Contact sandra.k.williams78@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. $1,300/month. Includes utilities. Call or text 404-822-6056.

MISCELLANEOUS


Tech researchers seeking volunteer families for a usability study of a mobile Android app that gives caregivers a convenient way to track childhood developmental milestones. The study is early detection of autism spectrum disorder and other issues. See bit.palat.gatech.edu/study-recruitment.

Furnishings and appliances for sale. Thomasville sofa, hunter green pleat, 81x43. $90. LG appliances like new—ultra-large top load washer, 4.7 cu. ft., white, and ultra large dryer, 7.3 cu. ft., stackable, front load washer. $400 each. 4-year old: $950. Refrigerator—large capacity 3-door French door w/filtered water dispenser and ice maker, 5-year old: $500. Contact speckle.89@gmail.com.

Items for sale: Three cream-colored leather look counter-height bar stools, excellent condition, $35. Contact 404-904-1052.

Items for sale: Three cream-colored leather look counter-height bar stools, excellent condition, $35. Each or $100 for set. Ones shaped black leather desk w/pull-out keyboard tray, excellent condition, $50. One maroon cloth computer swivel chair w/arms, excellent condition, $35. Contact 404-904-1052.

Add run for all three issues in the order in which they are received. Submit your 35-word-or-less ad to editor@comrn.gatech.edu.