Applications Roll in for Class of 2017

Regular Decision admissions were released on Saturday, March 11, and a record number of students applied to Georgia Tech this year. In total, 7,297 students were offered admission.

see DEAN, page 4

17 Selected as Teaching and Learning Fellows

The Center for Teaching and Learning recently named its first cohort of participants for the Provost Teaching and Learning Fellows Program. Participants come from all six colleges. See a full list at:

c.gatech.edu/tlfellows

see SERVICE, page 3

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EVENTS

ARTS & CULTURE

March 24
Dance Canvas presents Introducing the Next, an evening of new choreography, new ideas, and new collaborations that explores the connections between movement, technology, science, and life. The event takes place at 8 p.m. at the Faris Center for the Arts. arts.gatech.edu

Through April 7
The College of Design hosts Design Divergence: Emerging Fields of Research in the College of Design, weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Cohen Gallery, Second Floor, East Architecture Building. design.gatech.edu

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SEMINARS & LECTURES

March 27
Steve Useem, professor in the School of History and Sociology, will present Global Transport and Logistics since 1945 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in Room 104, Old Civil Engineering Building. beoc.gatech.edu

March 29
The Institute for Leadership and Entrepreneurship and Hillel at Georgia Tech host Avishay Braverman, former president of Ben-Gurion University and former member of the Knesset, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in the LeCraw Auditorium, Scheller College of Business, as part of the IMPACT Speaker Series. scheller.gatech.edu/impact

April 1
The Women’s Resource Center hosts the annual Women’s Leadership Conference, featuring guest speakers, discussions, and awards, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Historic Academy of Medicine at Georgia Tech. Register: wlc.gatech.edu

April 12
The Institute for Leadership and Entrepreneurship and the Neil Asks Program host a panel of speakers from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in the LeCraw Auditorium, Scheller College of Business, as part of the IMPACT Speaker Series. Panelists include Larry Gallerstedt, CEO at Cousins, and Haia Moddelmog, president of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, with Steve Salbu of Georgia Tech moderating. scheller.gatech.edu/impact

Implicit Bias Workshops Draw Nearly 300 Faculty Members

ANNETTE FILLIAT
INSTITUTE DIVERSITY

According to Mahzarin R. Banaji, professor and chair of Harvard University's Department of Psychology, "Even the most well-intentioned person unwittingly allows unconscious thoughts and feelings to influence apparently objective decisions."

Implicit biases affect almost every aspect of daily life and are quickly becoming the focus of programs within academia and industry. The Wall Street Journal recently reported that 90 percent of large U.S. companies are expected to offer unconscious bias training for their employees in the next five years.

Georgia Tech’s Institute of Diversity, in collaboration with the ADVANCE Program, began offering Implicit Bias Workshops — designed for faculty who serve on reappointment, promotion, and tenure and faculty search committees — in Fall 2015.

The goals of the workshops are to increase awareness of the impact of implicit bias and to facilitate equitable decision-making across myriad processes related to faculty evaluations. Since then, nearly 300 faculty members, or nearly one-third of all tenured and tenure-track faculty at Tech, have attended a workshop. Among those surveyed, 97 percent of participants would recommend the Implicit Bias Workshops to a colleague.

“It was eye-opening to learn about the influence of unconscious perceptions and biases on my everyday evaluations of personnel,” said Mark Mitchell, director of GTRI’s Advanced Concepts Laboratory. “Following the workshop, I have taken steps to ensure that interview and hiring procedures are based on set criteria, and decisions are made in a deliberate and careful fashion.”

Institute Diversity Associate Vice President Julie Ancis, who co-facilitated the workshops with Biomedical Engineering Professor and Senior Associate Chair Paul Berkcareer, said participants have found the research on hiring processes, including letters of recommendation, collaborative work, and tenure evaluations, to be particularly useful.

“I use what I learned in the workshop more often than I imagined I would. The workshop reinforced to me that we all have some form of bias. I am more aware of the language used in writing and reading letters of recommendation for students — consciously questioning words or phrases that might disadvantage students when applying to graduate schools,” said Michelle Rinehart, associate dean for academic affairs and outreach in the College of Design.

Additional workshops will be offered in the fall. More information about these workshops will be released in the coming months, and all tenured and tenure-track faculty will receive an invitation to register for one.

The Implicit Bias Workshops are part of the 11 Gender Equity Initiatives being implemented at the Institute. These initiatives emerged from President G.P. “Bud” Peterson’s listening sessions in 2013 where he heard, in part, concerns from the campus community about promoting equity in policies and processes related to the recruitment, hiring, retention, promotion, professional development, and leadership appointments of women faculty members.

For more information on the Implicit Bias Workshops, visit advance.gatech.edu/implicit-bias-workshops.

When the Whistle Blows
Georgia Tech’s Remembrance Ceremony

Tuesday, April 4 • 5:15 p.m. Harrison Square
Rain Location: Clary Theatre, Bill Moore Student Success Center

Nothing can replace the joy a loved one or cherished friend brings to our lives, so the Georgia Tech family is always deeply saddened when we suffer the loss of members of our own community.

Each spring, we honor the memory of the students, faculty, and staff who have died in the previous year. Join us as we pay tribute to these individuals who have touched our lives and contributed to our community.

Gedeon Addisu
Undergraduate Student
College of Engineering

Terry Boling
Operations Service Representative Professional Education

Christine de Catanzano
Archivist Library

Gabriel-Alejandro Suarez
Graduate Student
College of Sciences

Kimez
Graduate Student
College of Design

Stephen Giraud
Systems Support Engineer Office of Information Technology

Kyle Hamblin
Graduate Student
College of Computing

Janice Hester
Directory Services Specialist Office of Information Technology

Joseph Hopkins
Graduate Student
College of Engineering

Hernando Jimenez
Research Engineer College of Engineering

Darryl Johnson
Custodian Facilities Management

Jay Karwatsky
Undergraduate Student College of Engineering

Kyung Min Kim
Undergraduate Student College of Sciences

Thomas Lux
Professor and Margaret T. and Henry C. Bourne Jr. Chair in Theater Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts

Kathy Fummeer
Academic Program Coordinator College of Sciences

Neil Prasad
Undergraduate Student Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts

Alexander Princi
Undergraduate Student College of Engineering

Eduardo Ronjas
Graduate Student College of Computing

William Rountree
Undergraduate Student College of Engineering

Adam Sattler
Graduate Student College of Sciences

Jadynah Waller
Undergraduate Student College of Engineering

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Archives are posted at whistle.gatech.edu.

Georgia Tech is a unit of the University System of Georgia.
Christy Rakness (bottom right) poses with young women she coaches from the West Georgia Volleyball Academy.

Clemmons also participated. He remembers how rank also participated. He remembers how essential she was to the service experience, regarding her as a “brave” for taking on the load of immersing students from many perspectives and expectations into one common purpose.

“What she does for international students is not easy, but you can tell she enjoys the challenge,” he said. “She does a great job helping us become involved in the U.S., and it doesn’t take long for you to become comfortable with her. You can tell she cares.”

Rakness enjoys serving the thousands of international students on the Tech campus, and she takes that ability to serve seriously.

“In this position, you really have to stay abreast of policy changes that affect students, and I love being held accountable to that charge,” she said.

The opportunity to expand her reach of service to young women playing volleyball was a natural extension of what she loves about her work.

“The world is bigger than me, and I realize there are lots of ways to give,” she said. “Sharing your resources or finances is a good way, and certainly needed, but another way to give is through your time. My advice to others is to find what pulls at your heartstrings and think small. Find a passion and know that individual efforts and local impact make a difference. Find out what you want to do, and do it.”

Clemmons Moves to Move Others

Tierra Clemmons, a residence hall director for the Freshmen Housing in Georgia Tech Housing, values the opportunity to marry her passions for service and leadership.

Currently in her third year at Tech, Clemmons has entrenched herself in positions of leadership, motivation, and motion.

When not serving hundreds of first-year students living on campus or fulfilling her duties as president of Technmasters Club — the local chapter of Toastmasters International at Georgia Tech that focuses on improving the communication skills and leadership abilities of its members — she puts her rubber soles to the pavement and encourages others to follow.

Clemmons volunteers her time outside of work to serve as a captain in a runners club called Movers and Pacers. The Atlanta-based run group, founded in 2013, seeks to motivate the city of Atlanta through running, service work, community building, and influencing the lives of others. Clemmons commits two days a week to run practices with the group’s members and says the experience has been rewarding.

“Honestly, [the group] has done so much for me,” Clemmons said. “It’s been where I met my first friends in Atlanta, and where I’ve made such strides in my own fitness goals. What I love about the group is that it’s not about the running for so many. It’s about seeing consistent friendly faces, sharing hugs, and supporting each other in whatever we have going on. The success of the group — in how many people are involved and the things it has accomplished — is a community effort.”

In February, the runners club encouraged kids and families to join in a Black History Run through Atlanta’s historic Sweet Auburn neighborhood. The event is one of her favorites; through participation in previous years, she has learned about some of the city’s historic sites.

That event, however, was not the first time Clemmons used running as a catalyst for educating and motivating youth. Last year, she served two semesters as a coach in Girls on the Run, a nonprofit organization that uses a curriculum-based program to inspire young girls and teach essential life skills. The after-school program uses intentional physical activity incorporated into lessons around negative self-talk, body image, bullying, and other challenging topics a third-to-fifth grade girl might face.

“The opportunity to marry my passions for a healthy lifestyle and helping young girls of color was deeply rewarding,” Clemmons said.

Through Movers and Pacers, Clemmons continued her service work with children earlier this year. By partnering with Solomon’s Temple, a nonprofit, Atlanta-based organization helping homeless women and their children, Clemmons and other members of the run group provided reprieve from the hardships of being without. Service work, she shares, is an ongoing effort of the run group, and serves as a vehicle for building a meaningful membership.

“The point of the group and my involvement in it is not about ‘being the best,’” she said. “Anyone can do their own thing, build their own group. In fact, we encourage and support other members to start their own initiative — something they are passionate about. There is drive in the group to be cultural influencers. What are we doing if not affecting and touching the lives of those around us?”

Clemmons is currently training for her next big run, the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile Run, which will take place in Washington, D.C., in April.
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Jacobs served as the associate chair for undergraduate programs for the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Georgia Tech from 1995 to 2007. He received a joint appointment with the George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering in 2003. His research interests include development of measurement techniques for the quantitative nondestructive evaluation of infrastructure materials, nonlinear acoustics for damage characterization, and life prediction in structural materials.

Jacobs received his Ph.D. in Engineering Mechanics from Columbia University. Prior to receiving his doctorate, he worked for two years in the aerospace industry and one year as a structural engineer. After earning his Ph.D., he worked for a year as an Office of Naval Technology postdoctoral fellow before joining the Georgia Tech faculty in 1988.

Jacobs will serve until a new dean is named. A 15-member search advisory committee composed of faculty, staff, and the current undergraduate and graduate student body presidents is conducting an international search for the College’s next leader.

Julia Kuhnacek, associate dean for Research in the College of Sciences, professor of Biological Sciences, and professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, chairs the committee. Jennifer Herazy, associate provost for Operations, serves as search director.

May’s departure follows a storied career at Georgia Tech, which is also his alma mater.

“For the past five years, Dean May has led the nation’s largest and most diverse college of engineering,” said President G.P. “Bud” Peterson. “His commitment to mentoring students and developing programs to attract and retain female and underrepresented minorities in STEM fields has benefit students, not only here at Georgia Tech but throughout the nation. His efforts to increase interdisciplinary collaboration and help graduates gain entrepreneurial confidence have had wide-ranging impact, including facilitating the growth of Technology Square.”