Police Discuss Crime Trends, Campus Operations at ‘Inform’

KRISTEN BAILEY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Georgia Tech Police Chief Robert Connolly led a discussion on campus safety and security on May 9 at the Staff Council’s most recent Inform Georgia Tech session. Though the presentation provided an overview of the department’s work, recent crime trends, and crime prevention efforts, questions from attendees centered solely on the recent passage of Georgia House Bill 280, which will allow firearms on campus beginning July 1.

Though Connolly addressed all questions, many details remain unclear on the implementation of the law until a plan is provided by the University System of Georgia (USG) to its 28 member institutions. Several questions focused on the boundaries of where and when licensed gun owners will be able to carry weapons on campus. More information about an implementation plan will be shared in the coming weeks following guidance from the Board of Regents, ensuring that all campuses respond consistently.

“We promise we will continue to...”

City Bike-Share Adds Stations On Campus

KRISTEN BAILEY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Amid the white and gold Stingers and Tech Trolleys on campus, a slew of blue bikes has emerged.

As part of the City of Atlanta’s recent expansion of the Relay Bike Share program, Georgia Tech now has six campus hubs where users can grab a bicycle.

Relay launched in Atlanta in 2016 with 100 bikes at 22 stations, including one on Fifth Street in Tech Square. In April, it expanded to 500 bikes and 65 stations. The service provides short-term bike rentals with check-out and check-in places around the city. The six stations on campus are on Techwood Drive at North Avenue, Tech Parkway near the Student Center Transit Hub, the Clough Commons turnaround, West Campus Housing on Turner Street, on Ferst Drive across from the Campus Recreation Center, and on Fifth Street in Tech Square.

“We’re thrilled to have six stations on campus and several more in the vicinity. The stations on campus are spaced in a way to create the most convenient options, based on where we expect...”

Employee Activities Don’t Stop for Summer

Bowling, Hiking Groups Begin in June

KRISTEN BAILEY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Summer in Atlanta brings high temperatures and humidity, which often drives people to indoor activity.

On campus, that makes it the perfect month to take part in a summer bowling league. Tech Rec will again offer a faculty/staff bowling league for the month of June, and...
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the most demand, but if we need to adjust locations going forward we can do that," said Lisa Safstrom, campus transportation planner in Parking and Transportation Services (PTS).

Pricing is structured for daily, monthly, or annual users. For the Tech community, users can get the benefit of an educational discount. Users who register with an email ending in "edu" can get a monthly pass for $7.50 per month, which includes 90 minutes of daily ride time. For those who want to try it first or use a bike occasionally, daily passes are $3.50 and include 30 minutes of ride time.

Relay serves as a complement to the PTS BuzzBike rental program, which lets students rent bikes on a semester-long basis at an affordable rate. "We’ve seen growing interest in cycling on and to campus, and now we’re able to provide options for those wishing to rent bikes long- or short-term," said Safstrom. "The Relay program offers the opportunity for everybody to have a bike whenever they need it for short trips, without the responsibility of actually owning a bike."

In recent years, PTS has upgraded campus infrastructure and worked with the City of Atlanta to improve routes to get to campus from nearby neighborhoods.

"Relay is a valuable piece of the puzzle in creating a great bike network on campus," Safstrom said. "It also offers a valuable complement to transit, whether that’s MARTA or campus transit, to be able to get to campus or to transfer to another transportation mode. You might not live close enough to transit to walk to it, but having a bicycle is something you can have with you anywhere, a bike-share can get you there in a reasonable amount of time."

Safstrom suggested that users try a Relay bike for quick trips, including lunch runs or nearby errands. "You can pick up a bike on campus, ride to Piedmont Park or a restaurant downtown, drop off the bike, take your time, and find another bike to return," she said.

Relay has bikes at both the North Avenue and Midtown MARTA stations, as well as on the Tech campus. "You can track the bikes on that website and its mobile app shows where and how many bikes are available at any given time."

All bikes have eight speeds, a bell, a basket, and GPS tracking that shows the length and route of rides.

According to data from the City of Atlanta, more than 5,000 people have taken 15,000 trips using Relay bicycles since the program began.

Having six stations on campus lets Georgia Tech help the network be useful citywide. "The more stations that are available, the more successful a bike-share program will be, as they need to be located densely enough to be easily available when needed," Safstrom said.

Users can get started by signing up at relaybikeshare.com or through the Social Bikes smartphone app. Once you’ve set up an account and purchased a plan, you can unlock a bike with your account number and pin at any hub. To return a bike, simply lock it back at any Relay hub.

Photography by Christopher More

Anirudh Gattani, a civil engineering graduate student, approaches the Relay bike hub on Techwood Drive at North Avenue. The six campus Relay hubs are spaced based on expected demand but could be adjusted in the future if needed.
POLICE, from page 1

make campus safer,” Connolly said. All GTPD trainings will be modified to address the presence of firearms on campus, and GTPD will offer training to first-time gun owners and to anyone who plans to carry a weapon, to ensure it is done correctly and safely.

In the past, GTPD has worked with the student Marksmanship Club and ROTC groups on firearm training, so it’s not uncharted territory for campus officers. The GTPD force includes seven firearms instructors. Trainings are continually updated and modified, as such when the use of stun guns on campus was incorporated last year.

The new campus carry law requires that firearms be concealed, so that the weapon “does not actively solicit the attention of others.” Connolly encouraged community members not to address the situation themselves if they see a firearm exposed.

“Call us and let us deal with that,” he said. GTPD will also work with Parking and Transportation Services to maintain and enhance security of parking areas where firearms may be left in vehicles.

Beyond the subject of campus carry, Connolly shared an overview of how the department tracks and prevents crime. Overall, campus crime has trended downward since 2009 when crime was up both on campus and in surrounding areas.

“Our biggest concern right now is bicycle theft,” Connolly said, noting that seven bikes had been stolen recently that were not locked at all. GTPD encourages all campus cyclists to use U-locks and secure their bikes any time they are unattended.

Another concern is students falling victim to fraud. In the past week, two students were victims of scam artists who extorted money, pretending they were collecting IRS payments.

“People are unattended. And secure their bikes any time they are unattended.

The GTPD control center, located in the Department’s headquarters on Hemphil Avenue, is outfitted with a multitude of screens and cameras that operators use to monitor campus remotely in real time.

More Information
Find GTPD on social media at:

- gatechpd
- gtpd_k9_koda
- gatechpd

For those who want a deeper knowledge of community policing, consider participating in GTPD’s Citizens Police Academy. Learn more at c.gatech.edu/GTPDCPA.

Connolly also covered the topic of Cleary Act safety alerts, of which there have only been two so far this year. Cleary Act alerts are issued as timely warnings when a crime has been committed of a violent or hazardous nature that may pose a serious or ongoing threat to members of the community. Eighty percent of Tech’s Cleary alerts are issued at night, and around two-thirds take place off campus but are reported as part of an extended boundary GTPD has determined for campus safety.

In recent years, GTPD has focused on two areas of technology to enhance its policing, cameras and social media. The campus is now monitored by 1,700 cameras, more than 50 of which are at street level. GTPD headquarters has a control room with screens and stations that can jump between vantage points and zoom in on areas as needed.

“The goal is that if you commit a crime on campus, you don’t get off campus without us spotting you,” Connolly said.

With regard to social media, the department uses Twitter, Instagram, and Reddit to engage with the community. Twitter is used primarily for quick updates as things are happening, while Instagram shares more about campus life and ongoing GTPD work. A separate Instagram account follows GTPD’s K-9 unit members, Koda and Molly. GTPD recently won the Top Cop Award at the Social Media, the Internet, and Law Enforcement Conference for innovative use of social media. Reddit has provided opportunities for students to share information anonymously with officers, as well as for GTPD to intervene in potential instances of self-harm. Officers are trained in the Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) training provided by the Georgia Tech Counseling Center.

“We’ve been able to use our QPR training to talk students down and point them to resources where they can get help,” Connolly said.

Officers also engage with communities beyond campus. GTPD recently began participating in Big Brothers Big Sisters and has 21 officers (of 86 total GTPD officers) volunteering as “Bigs in Blue” with young people in the West End and English Avenue neighborhoods.

Crime Prevention Officer Jessica Howard discussed other community engagement initiatives, reminding attendees that they can request educational classes on a variety of topics through the Crime Prevention Unit. To request a class or learn more about Tech’s safety and security efforts, visit police.gatech.edu.

Lauren Cadenati, professor in the College of Sciences, was appointed the first deputy spokesperson for the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO).

Randall W. Engle, professor in the School of Psychology, earned the 2017 Mentor Award from the Association for Psychological Science.

John R. McIntyre, professor in the School of Business, has been selected as honorary professor by the ICN Graduate School of Business, University of Lorraine, Nancy/Metz, France.

The H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering’s Edwin Romeijn, H. Milton and Carolyn J. Stewart School Chair and professor, and Chuck Zhang, professor, have been chosen by the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers for the 2017 Fellow Award.

John Toon, director of research news in Institute Communications and editor of Research Horizons, received the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)-USA’s award for Distinguished Literary Contributions Furthering Public Understanding and Advancement of the Engineering Profession.

The Georgia Tech VOICE Sexual Violence Prevention Initiative received the Cornerstone Award from Residence Life. The award honors a person or group from outside of Housing who has been a friend and support to residents and the department throughout the year.
Kim’s Passion Lies in ‘Nitty-Gritty’ Details of Internet Security

DAVID MITCHELL
COLLEGE OF COMPUTING

Taesoo Kim may never have found himself working as an assistant professor in Georgia Tech’s School of Computer Science, doing research in the Institute for Information Security and Privacy (IISP), if not for a handful of choices.

They are decisions evident of an individual who can see things at ball speed. The assistant professor attacks new challenges like the security threats he studies. He identifies vulnerabilities and formulates defensive responses one task at a time.

He graduated summa cum laude with degrees in computer science and electrical engineering at the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology in South Korea, but had never done much work in security outside of his two years of military service.

During those two years, he worked almost exclusively on systems security, but, because of the secretive nature of the job, couldn’t share anything about that experience when he applied for the Ph.D. program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). As a result, he applied for machine learning and robotics programs, but switched to his preferred focus on security immediately after being accepted.

During his time at MIT, he helped develop a startup that received $2 million in initial funding. The startup eventually moved west to San Francisco, where it was picked up by a bigger company. Kim, who was determined to finish what he started with regard to his Ph.D., passed on the enormous financial opportunities that went with his startup to return to school for his final two years at MIT.

“It’s an accomplishment,” he said of earning his Ph.D. “When you start something, you want to finish. Being a scientist and earning my Ph.D., I had always wanted so it was a big deal for me to finish what I started.”

And upon earning his Ph.D., he elected to go into academia, sharing knowledge and guidance with his students, something both he and the College of Computing recognized.

When he came to Georgia Tech in Fall 2014, he had not written a grant proposal. In the two and a half years that have followed, though, he has already been awarded nearly $6 million on his proposals.

He achieved it like he achieves most other things in his life — he put a lot of time and effort into learning the finest details of how to do it.

“Nobody taught me how to do a proposal, so I was a little worried about getting money,” Kim said. “So, I decided I wanted to write some right away to get some feedback from the community. I wrote about eight for the first year and, fortunately, almost all of them were accepted.”

That meant more funding, bigger classes, and bigger responsibilities. It was a problem Kim was skeptical about at first, despite seeing the need for growth in the program.

He feared losing the tight interaction he had with his students, something both he and the students value.

To address this concern, Kim’s teaching excellence was honored at the Institute level with a CTL/BP Junior Faculty Teaching Excellence Award at the Faculty Staff Honors Luncheon in April. His classes are consistently among the most highly reviewed in the College of Computing, but he sees room for improvement as challenges with class sizes loom.

“For the most part, students are passionate about this topic, and I am too,” Kim said. “I want to make sure there isn’t a drop-off.”

He takes time to sit down with the students and evaluate their expectations against what they are currently getting out of the class, specifically as it pertains to their grade. Then, they discuss strategies for how to make those two ends meet.

“Most of the students end up achieving the grade they want,” he said.

And, ever the student, Kim continues learning himself. He does not take time for leisurely reading. Instead, he spends his hours in technical books or books about improving writing skills.

“When I study something, I have to get all the way down to its core,” he said. “I have to look as deep as I can into it and then move on to another topic.”

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2017 Wellness Walks

June 10: Sweetwater Creek State Park

Wooded trails follow a spirited stream to the ruins of the New Manchester Manufacturing Company, a textile mill burned during the Civil War. Trails climb rocky bluffs to provide views of beautiful vistas that go along with it. Employees enjoy the scenery of Sweetwater Creek State Park during a 2015 wellness hike.

June 24: Red Top Mountain State Park

2017 Wellness Walks

Meet for breakfast at Mountain Biscuit Company at 7 a.m. if you’re an early riser, then join the group at the base of Little Rock for a trek over the smaller mountain, then up to the top of Big Kennesaw. Before Atlanta fell to General Sherman’s Union army in 1864, a fierce battle raged around the base and on the face of the mountains.

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CLASSIFIEDS

REAL ESTATE ROOMMATES

Second floor unfurnished condo w/ balcony overlooking quiet courtyard. 15-min walk to Tech, 3-min walk to Stinger Green Route. Unit comes with gated parking garage and reserved parking space, refrigerator, W/D, granite countertops, custom closet, access to pool gym, 24-hour security on property. Non-smoking unit, prefer no pets. Walking distance to Atlantic Station. Available June 1 for 1-year lease. $1,350/mo. OBO. Includes water, trash. Contact yangzephil@yahoo.com.

Make employee seeking roommate to share 1BR apartment near Lenoir MARTA, St. Peter’s downtown, near shopping. Contact Jose, 404-904-0105.

For rent: lovely garden apartment in Ansley Park. 2BR/1BA (700+ sq. ft.) w/ parking. 2 mi. from Tech near bus/ train lines. Across from Piedmont Park and Botanical Garden. Available Aug. 1. $1,500/mo., negotiable. Contact 787-228-2155, naa.1987@comcast.net or 404-316-6862. For a virtual tour and more information, visit 1732dunwoodyplace.com.

Looking for young working professional, graduate student, or visiting professor to rent private bedroom and bath (w/ access to all living spaces) in Buckhead. Fenced yard. No utilities. Contact 787-420-2275. No smokers. Contact MRWhittle08@comcast.net or 404-316-6862. For a virtual tour and more information, visit 1732dunwoodyplace.com.


Roommate (student, administrator, or professional) wanted to share home in Athens. Excellent shopping, public transit. Have rented to Italian doctoral student, Brazilian baker, semi-pro soccer player. Referrals on request. Available June 4. Request 1-2 bedroom, 1-2 bathrooms, contact 404-514-7662, reba.darr@gmail.com.


Roommate (student, administrator, or professional) wanted to share home in Alpharetta. Excellent shopping, public transit. Have rented to Italian doctoral student, Brazilian baker, semi-pro soccer player. Referrals on request. Available June 4. Request 1-2 bedroom, 1-2 bathrooms, contact 404-514-7662, reba.darr@gmail.com.


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