**The Whistle**

**WORK AND LIFE AT GEORGIA TECH • January 22, 2019**

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**CROSCLAND RE-CHRISTENED**

After being closed for three years, Crosland Tower reopened as the home of the Georgia Tech Library as the long-term library renewal project enters its next phase. Take a look at more photos on Page 4, as well as the Library’s new website at library.gatech.edu.

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**GET INVOLVED IN FACULTY GOVERNANCE**

Opportunities are available to serve on one of several committees.

**For Academic Faculty**
- Student Academic and Financial Affairs
- Student Activities
- Student Regulations
- Student Grievance and Appeal
- Student Honor
- Student Computer Ownership
- Academic Integrity
- Undergraduate Curriculum†
- Graduate Curriculum†

Self-nominations are welcome. The Georgia Tech Faculty Nominating Committee seeks to honor all requests for particular committees; nominators are asked to keep in mind that some elections require meeting the needs of two careers.

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Tech Welcomes 4,000 in Early Action Admission**

The admit rate for this admission round was 20 percent — 40 percent for in-state students, and 14 percent for non-Georgia residents. Learn more at c.gatech.edu/earlyaction

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**BUSINESS TRANSACTION DISCLOSURES DUE JAN. 31**

Georgia law requires that all Institute employees disclose business transactions — conducted by themselves or family members — with the state or any state agency. Learn more at c.gatech.edu/disclosures

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Building a Better Foundation: Iris Tien Accepts the Challenge

VICTOR RIGGIO INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

For Iris Tien every road, bridge, or building is a potential research project. As an assistant professor in the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, her research focuses on structures and infrastructure systems. She studies ways to design better buildings, bridges, and distributed networks. The objective is to design water distribution systems, power networks, and transportation systems that perform better under various circumstances such as natural disasters, outages, or other disruptions and also can withstand aging, degradation, and climate change.

“My research definitely affects how I look at the world around me,” said Tien, who currently has a project looking at corrosion on bridges. “Now, every time I go under a bridge, I’m looking at the columns.”

In recent years, much attention has been given to the United States’ aging infrastructure. Tien welcomes the discussion.

“It has been a transition to have politicians and the public see the importance of infrastructure and how it supports economic growth,” Tien said. “The open question is where to best spend money on infrastructure. One part of our research looks at how to identify the most critical parts of a system and to prioritize investment.”

Tien’s research group also looks at how failures in different parts of a network can propagate through the system and affect other areas. One example they studied was when a massive fire caused part of a bridge on I-85 in Atlanta to collapse in March 2017. “When I saw that the I-85 bridge collapse had happened, I, of course, was happy that no one was hurt,” she said. “At the same time, the research side of me got excited because something happened in the real world that we could study. This was a case where we could have a specific event happen and then look at real data across the network. We have models, but we could use this system to calibrate the models to better reflect the real world.”

Her research also looks at the interdependencies between infrastructure systems. Previously, infrastructure systems, like water and power, were designed in silos, but infrastructure is becoming increasingly connected, she said.

One of Tien’s projects funded by the National Science Foundation, looks at theoretical advancements of how to model and capture the effects across networks.

Another of her projects focuses more on the application side. It is through the Department of Homeland Security and is a collaboration between Georgia Tech and several departments within the city of Atlanta. It’s really important to be able to talk across departments,” Tien said. “This project brings some of our research into the real world, looking at real-world systems and working with stakeholders to determine what is important to them. It allows us to transfer our research from the lab to have an impact on real systems.”

“I chose Georgia Tech because of a feeling that I had when I visited. It’s a nice, collegial environment. And it’s a highly ranked school with great students and colleagues. And, Atlanta is a great place to live.”

From There to Here

When she was younger, Tien wanted to be an architect because she thought it would be cool to design buildings. After visiting an architecture firm, she realized it was the actual building process that was more interesting to her. “I thought in more detail about what I wanted to do, and I chose civil engineering as a more concrete way to contribute to that type of work,” she said.

She grew up in the California Bay Area and attended U.C. Berkeley for her bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees. She received job offers from several universities, and her final decision came down to Tech and one other school.

“Tien made a huge matrix of all of the different factors that I thought would make me happy in a particular job,” she said. “In the end, I chose Georgia Tech because of a feeling that I had when I visited. It’s a nice, collegial environment. And it’s a highly ranked school with great students and colleagues. And, Atlanta is a great place to live.”

Tien enjoys walking and being outdoors, especially when she’s trying to solve a problem. “Being in nature is nice, seeing the sky, and seeing leaves and flowers in the spring. When you’re not sitting at your desk focusing on the problem, that’s when ideas come up, and solutions to problems that seemingly had been hard to solve appear.”

When she isn’t working, Tien has two pastimes that are very important to her: sports and music. She plays tennis as often as possible, and she plays a weekly pickup basketball game near Emory University.

“The music side, I play violin in a community-based orchestra — the Atlanta Musicians Orchestra — and I sing in a choir,” Tien said. “I like classical music, and it works a part of the brain that’s a little different from the engineering side. When I’m learning a violin piece, I can feel my brain making these connections. It’s kind of ‘math and sciency’ with the different notes and how it’s put together, but it also has this artistic side which is fun to explore.”

Above photo by Allison Carter // Below photo courtesy of Iris Tien
CAR GETS COLLABORATIVE

The working group charged with developing an action plan supporting the goals of the Comprehensive Administrative Review (CAR) spent three days in January soliciting input from Georgia Tech faculty and staff, engaging with subject matter experts in pursuit of greater administrative efficiency. Together with the Office of Strategic Consulting, each of the three collaborative solutions workshops focused on one of the functions identified in the CAR assessment: procurement and expense management; information technology; and communications, marketing, and events. A fourth workshop on talent acquisition and people management was held in December. Participants, chosen for their professional expertise or familiarity with these functions were asked to comment on the aspects they believed are working well, what needed to be improved, and how the roles for central and distributed personnel can complement each other. Complete information about CAR is available at c.gatech.edu/car.

What’s next:
The working group is nearing completion of its responsibilities, as it combines data and feedback into a draft action plan, which will be shared with President G.P. “Bud” Peterson and his decision group next month. Tech’s five-year plan will be submitted to the University System of Georgia Chancellor for review in March.

GOVERNANCE, from page 1
are constrained by requirements associated with particular seats and the necessity to balance campus representation.
Those selected by the Faculty Nominations Committee for the final ballot will be notified approximately one week before the election commences. Elected faculty will serve a three-year term, from August 2019 through August 2022.
For a description of the work for each committee, visit the Faculty Handbook: Section 2.6 Standing Committees of the Faculty at policylibrary.gatech.edu. For more information, contact:
• Erick Maxwell, chair, nominations committee and GTRI representative: erick.maxwell@gtri.gatech.edu.
• Michael Hoffmann, co-chair, nominations committee: michael.hoffmann@pubpolicy.gatech.edu.
• Jeanne Balsam, secretary of the faculty: jeanne.balsam@gtri.gatech.edu.

HIRING, from page 1
“Georgia Tech’s new language for faculty hiring advertisements explicitly states our goal to achieve greater diversity in future faculty hiring outcomes,” said Archie Ervin, vice president for Institute Diversity. “Directing this message to women, underrepresented minorities, individuals with disabilities, and veterans will encourage more members of these communities to consider joining our campus community.”
The initiative to update the faculty position advertising template is also in line with ADVANCE’s mission “to develop systemic and institutional approaches that increase the representation, full participation, and advancement of women and minorities in academic STEM careers — thus contributing to a more diverse workforce, locally and nationally.”
Ervin highlighted the institutional importance of ADVANCE, noting that “Georgia Tech ADVANCE professors provide visible and tangible leadership for our equity and inclusion agendas with a special emphasis on gender equity.”
The updated faculty position advertisement template is available online at faculty.gatech.edu.

MISCELLANEOUS
Jan. 24
The preliminary round of the Inventure Prize will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom.
inventureprize.gatech.edu
Jan. 25
Women’s Tennis hosts ITA Kickoff Weekend at the Ken Byers Tennis Complex. ramblinwreck.com
Jan. 27
Women’s Basketball hosts N.C. State at 2 p.m. at McCamish Pavilion. ramblinwreck.com
Jan. 27
Men’s Tennis hosts Furman University at 3:30 p.m. at the Ken Byers Tennis Complex. ramblinwreck.com
Jan. 29
Forces Behind Movements, a conversation about women in leadership roles in social movements, will take place at 6:30 p.m. in the Bill Moore Student Pavilion.
Feb. 1
The Robotarium will host an open house from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. in Room 261, Van Leer Building.
robotarium.gatech.edu
Feb. 8
The Center for Teaching and Learning’s book club will meet to discuss Creating the Path to Success in the Classroom by Kathleen F. Gabriel (2018) and The Neuroscience of Learning and Development edited by Marilee J. Bresciani Ludwik (2016). The discussion will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Room 466A, Clough Commons. Learn more and register at: ctf.gatech.edu
A LIBRARY REIMAGINED

VEHICLES
2002 Mercedes-Benz 430S, ~240k miles; runs well; photos available; $4,500 OBO. Contact wggreen1162738@bellsouth.net; 404-667-9025.

REAL ESTATE/ROOMMATES
2BR/1BA apt. for rent in Midtown on 14th Street NW. One mile from campus. Conveniently located near Stinger Green Route stop (STR). New flooring, fresh paint. One assigned parking space w/ street parking on Francis Street. Available immediately. $1,500/mo. Email sammcsinnis@hotmail.com.

For rent: Retired professor's 3BR/2BA hilltop home overlooking Atlanta Memorial Park in Buckhead. Close to jogging paths, playground, golf, tennis, Northeast Beltline, and Meds Brandon Elementary. 5.5 mi. from Tech campus. $3,200/mo. Contact vibhadesai@hotmail.com, 404-563-5795.

MISCELLANEOUS
CATEA is recruiting employees with disabilities (e.g., mobility impairments, hearing loss, learning disabilities, back pain), for a study of the impact of universal design in the workplace. Participants will be paid $100 (as long as you complete the 1.5 hour study outside of work hours). More information is available at catea.gatech.edu/accessible-workplace-study.

Looking for a carpool partner for the daily commute from East Cobb to Tech campus. Email bolleys@hotmail.com.

Cat named Mika looking for a new home. Friendly, cuddly indoor cat with all of her shots (no health problems, spayed). Her owner went off to college, and she is now often home by herself. Contact Molly, 404-983-5390.

Microwave for sale: 1.3 cu. ft. Panasonic, stainless steel, 1 year old, barely used. $95 OBO. Contact John, 404-430-7600.

Keurig K-cup coffee/tea machine w/ reusable coffee filter. Slightly used. Great shape. $35. Pick up on Tech campus or near Midtown MARTA Station. Call Lynne, 770-547-3189.

Men’s DryJoy brand golf shoes, size 9M; cloth bag; golf balls; gloves. Used, in good shape. $35. Pick up on Tech campus or near Midtown MARTA Station. Call Lynne, 770-547-3189.

Ads run for at least three issues in the order in which they are received. Submit your 35-word-or-less ad to editor@comm.gatech.edu.