Using Visuals to Help Tell a Story: Meet Ximin Mi

VICTOR ROGERS
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Ximin Mi’s job at Georgia Tech exists in part because of feedback from the campus community.

Two years ago, the Library conducted a survey asking what resources it should offer, and data visualization services was among the top requests. Mi is Georgia Tech’s first data visualization librarian.

She helps students and faculty working on assignments or research create visuals to support their projects.

“Data visualization uses charts, graphs, texts, maps, and all kinds of visual components,” Mi said. “I let the components interact with each other to tell a story. First, I try to find out the story hiding behind the data, then share that story with the audience.”

In June 2017, Mi came to Tech from Georgia State University, where she worked in a similar position. One of Mi’s first projects was a collaboration with faculty in the School of Modern Languages for the Climate Data Visualization Symposium in fall 2017.

“They wanted a time-lapse visual to show what has happened using visuals to help tell a story: meet ximin mi

Ximin Mi is pictured outside the Library, which is currently under renovation.

What’s Next for the Comprehensive Administrative Review (CAR)?

For updates about Georgia Tech’s follow-up to the University System of Georgia’s CAR, and to read the full report, visit: president.gatech.edu/car-report

Take to Two Wheels for the Atlanta Bike Challenge

Form a team with coworkers, log rides, and compete for prizes. For bike safety tips, attend an upcoming on-campus class on Oct. 11 — see events on page 2 for details.

atlbikechallenge.com

SAYING GOODBYE, SAYING HELLO

Last week, the Tech community honored faculty and staff members on their next chapter at the annual Retirement Dinner (left) on Thursday, Sept. 27. This year, Georgia Tech had 133 retirees. The same day, the community celebrated the opening of the Interdisciplinary Design Commons in the newly renovated Van Leer Building (right). The building’s new makerspace is the largest electronics-oriented student makerspace in the country.

IN THIS ISSUE

Flu Season is Coming: Get Vaccinated 2
Demystifying Georgia Tech Series Returns 3
Hidden Georgia Tech: Fleet Services 4
ARTS AND CULTURE
Oct. 12
The Robert C. Williams Museum of Papermaking hosts the Paper Animation Fast Film Fest, beginning with a kickoff event from 6:15 to 8 p.m. at the Museum. paper.gatech.edu/fast-film-fest

HEALTH AND WELLNESS
Oct. 11
An Overeaters Anonymous meeting takes place Thursdays from noon to 1 p.m. at Room 230, Stamps Health Services. atlantoa.org

WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING
Oct. 3
The Impact Speaker Series hosts Lesley Grady, senior vice president of the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Room 100, Scheller College of Business. scheller.gatech.edu/impact

Oct. 11
Packing and Transportation Services and the Georgia Tech Police Department host a free bike safety class from 11 a.m. to noon in Room 240, Campus Recreation Center. pbs.gatech.edu

Oct. 11
The Library hosts a class on Copyright and Open Access in Scholarly Publishing from 11 a.m. to noon in the Homer Rice Center. library.gatech.edu

Oct. 10
Human Resources hosts a Be Well session on “Deskercise” — exercises you can do at work — from 11 a.m. to noon in the Piedmont Room, Student Center. hr.gatech.edu/bewell

Oct. 16
Human Resources hosts a Be Well session on Education Assistance Programs from noon to 1 p.m. in the Piedmont Room, Student Center. hr.gatech.edu/bewell

Oct. 16
The Library hosts a class on Adobe Illustrator for Beginners from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in the Homer Rice Center, Library. library.gatech.edu

EVENTS continued on page 3

EVENTS

In Memoriam
TyAnna K. Herrington

TyAnna K. (Ty) Herrington, who was on faculty for 21 years in the School of Literature, Media, and Communication (LMC), died July 31. Herrington joined Georgia Tech as an assistant professor in 1997. Prior to that, she was a lecturer at Texas Tech University; a university associate at Curtin University of Technology in Perth; and an adjunct research fellow and visiting professor at the European University at St. Petersburg, Russia. She earned a bachelor’s degree from Rhodes College, as well as two master’s, a juris doctorate, and a Ph.D. from Texas Tech University.

Herrington joined Georgia Tech as an assistant professor in 1997. Prior to that, she was a lecturer at Texas Tech University; a university associate at Curtin University of Technology in Perth; and an adjunct research fellow and visiting professor at the European University at St. Petersburg, Russia. She earned a bachelor’s degree from Rhodes College, as well as two master’s, a juris doctorate, and a Ph.D. from Texas Tech University.

Herrington was a graduate student at Texas Tech. During the same period, she walked the Ostabat route of the Camino de Santiago.

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Herrington specialized in intellectual property law and international technical communication. Her journal publications, book chapters, and other articles explored issues in law, international communication, and global internet-connected projects. A memorial will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 2, from 4 to 6 p.m. at one of Herrington’s favorite places, the MidCity Café at 850 West Peachtree Street.

MI, from page 1
[regarding climate change] and what may be happening in the future,” Mi said. She put together a workshop that showed how to use satellite images from 1984 to today to show how the icecaps and shorelines have changed.

Last spring, Mi worked with Brittain Fellows who were looking at multiple volumes of journals from the 19th century in search of an interesting topic. For one project, she used the keyword “beauty” to see what visuals were associated with it — as opposed to what is associated with the word today.

“Had a small data set, but it showed that ‘beauty’ was associated more often with feminine and passive words and less often with active or intelligent words in our data set,” said Mi.

Mi is currently working on Data Visualization’s site service that allows students to do simulations with virtual reality. An Industrial and Systems Engineering class used the service to test how different vehicles perform on the road. And a psychology research team used virtual reality to see if people will get the same level of relaxation by meditating in a virtual environment as compared to a real environment.

“I really enjoy research because every research project is a new problem to be solved or understood,” said Mi. “Every project is different. My job allows me to help other people, but it also helps me to understand all of these topics across different disciplines. I feel like a sponge. I have absorbed so much information and knowledge from my coworkers.”

Mi said she appreciates the Georgia Tech community because it is filled with intelligence and curiosity.

“I keep telling my friends that I don’t have a dull moment. Every day is fresh and full of learning experiences,” she said.

Mi has a bachelor’s degree in economics from the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing. After graduating, she worked for Thompson Reuters before returning to school to earn two master’s degrees. The first is in education policy, curriculum and leadership from Arizona State University. Her second master’s degree is from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in library science.

Away from work, Mi likes to stay active. If she feels stressed, she goes for a long run. “I like to be outside,” she said. “Atlanta is very beautiful and green, and I like to be in nature whenever I have time.”

She also likes to shop at small stores that sell things that aren’t usually found elsewhere. She likes thrift stores, and she recently visited a glass store because she’s interested in making pottery.

Because she thought she might adopt a cat, Mi visited a cat cafe to interact with cats to see how it felt. To her surprise, she found out she is allergic to cats.

“That was the saddest thing that could happen!” she said.

Flu Season Is Coming
The best way to prevent getting the flu is to get vaccinated, and Stamps Health Services will again offer the vaccine for the campus community. This year, there is no copay for the vaccine for Georgia Tech employees with Blue Cross Blue Shield insurance. For others, the copay is up to $25. Students who have paid their health fee can get the vaccine for free.

Employees can schedule an appointment or walk in at Stamps Health Services between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. For students, clinics will be scheduled throughout the semester when they can get vaccinated without an appointment, or they can make an appointment during regular business hours.

Learn more about how to prevent and treat the flu at health.gatech.edu/additional/flu.
Ethics, Research, and Professional Development: Demystified

ANNETTE FILIAT
INSTITUTE DIVERSITY

Have you ever wondered about the ethical responsibilities of public universities? Or what the Office of Sponsored Programs does, or which professional development programs are available at the Institute? If so, please join us for the Demystifying How Georgia Tech Works event series this fall.

Georgia Tech’s ADVANCE Program is offering three Demystifying How Georgia Tech Works events on Oct. 2, Nov. 8, and Nov. 27. Each event is open to all faculty, staff, and students.

“We tend to know what is happening within our networks, but we could often benefit from seeing the bigger picture at the Institute,” said Pinar Keskinocak, College of Engineering ADVANCE Professor and William W. George Chair in the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering. “This event series is an opportunity to transfer knowledge and fill information gaps between units, so campus community members can be on the same page.”

L. Berti Teltay, Brady Family Chair and ADVANCE Professor in the Ernest Scheller Jr. College of Business, explained that this fall’s event topics were selected by crowdsourcing ideas from previous participants.

More than 500 faculty, staff, and students have attended the Demystifying How Georgia Tech Works series since its launch in 2016.

“As a Tech alumna and now faculty member, it was enlightening to attend last spring’s event on undergraduate enrollment, and heartening to hear of the plans to create a more diverse, better-supported undergraduate environment,” said Emily Weigel, academic professional in the School of Biological Sciences. “This series provides a quick crash course on topics of importance.”

To learn more and register, visit advance.gatech.edu/demystifyingtech.

Upcoming topics include:

**Ethical Responsibilities of Public Universities**

Tuesday, Oct. 2

11 a.m. to noon

Featuring Steve Salbu, Cecil B. Day Chair in Business Ethics, Scheller College of Business

This session will address issues around the mission of higher education, costs, ethical aspects of rankings, and some unethical practices.

**How the Office of Sponsored Programs Supports Faculty**

Thursday, Nov. 8

11 a.m. to noon

Featuring:

- Sandra Mason, senior director of grants and contracts, Grants and Contracts Accounting
- Trudy Riley, executive director, Sponsored Programs
- Susan Roche, research administration manager, Executive Vice President for Research
- Gail Spalt, director of research administration, Executive Vice President for Research

In this session, panelists from key offices dedicated to supporting faculty in obtaining and managing sponsored research funds will discuss recent initiatives focused on streamlining their services. They will also discuss the range of services they provide and how faculty can best benefit from working with their respective offices.

**Professional Development Programs for Faculty and Staff**

Tuesday, Nov. 27

11 a.m. to noon

Featuring:

- Pearl Alexander, executive director of diversity, inclusion, and engagement, Institute Diversity
- Julie Ancis, associate vice president, Institute Diversity
- Tim Lieuwen, David S. Lewis Jr. Chair and executive director of the Strategic Energy Institute, Daniel Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering
- Leslie Sharp, associate vice provost, Graduate Education and Faculty Development
- Bob Thomas, professor of the practice, Scheller College of Business

Georgia Tech and the University System of Georgia (USG) offer a number of professional development programs for faculty and staff, such as the Emerging Leaders Program, Leading Women@Tech, Adaptive Leadership Program, ACC Academic Leadership Network, and USG Executive Leadership Institute. The panel is composed of program administrators and participants who will talk about the content and goals of these programs.
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.

CLASSIFIEDS

VEHICLES

For Sale: 2010 Chevy Cobalt with 82,355 miles. Excellent condition. Good tires. $5,000 OBO. Contact bdsp@hotmai.com, 770-377-7177.


REAL ESTATE/ROOMMATES

Retired professor’s 3BR/2BA hilltop home overlooking Atlanta Memorial Park in Buckhead. Close to jogging paths, playground, tennis, Northwest BeltLine, and Morris Brandon Elem. school. 5.5 mi. from Tech campus. Available in October. $3,200/mo. Contact vishadesai@tmail.com, 404-663-4795.

Room available in 2BR/1BA apt. located 1.5 mi. north of campus. Rent $550/month, electric typically $30/month, internet $25/month. Contact zttower6@tmail.com.

Beautiful 4BR/3BA house, 2,300 sq. ft., easy access to Emory/ CDC/Georgia Tech. Hardwood floors, open floor plan, many windows. 0.5 acres top-of-the-hill knoll, breeze. Sought-after Oak Grove Elementary School district. Mostly restored. Asking $3,200. Call 918-500-6579.

For rent: 1BR apartment w/ own bathroom and shared kitchen in Stone Mountain. $500 plus utilities. Call 770-262-0566.

For rent: 2BR/1BA basement apartment in Johns Creek, North Fulton County. Exceptional neighborhood. Close to GA-400, I-85, I-285. $950/mo. rent only, or $1,100/mo. rent and utilities (except AT&T internet). Contact jstarnes3@tmail.com.

One or two rooms for rent in East Cobb. Each w/ its own bathroom. Shared kitchen facilities. $450 for one room or $600 for both. Email bdespy@tmail.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

For Sale: Queen size mattress set; 25” JVC TV(crt); red leather couch set; cream La-Z-Boy recliner; brown loveseat/ reclining loveseat; 3-piece sold wood wall unit; 9-piece dining room set; 10” milo saw; couch table and end table set; distressed wood book cuffed cabinet w/ glass shelves; plastic patio chairs and table. Pictures available. Contact cdirby63@email.com for details.

Free 9-week-old kittens. Two males and one female. The two males are black, female is gray. All have first fist to vet. Contact pk2@email.com.

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.

FLEET SERVICES

The Office of Fleet Services, tucked away at 306 10th Street, is responsible for the maintenance of nearly 850 Georgia Tech vehicles — from street-ready units such as police cars, service trucks, and Stingerettes, to landscaping vehicles and street-legal golf carts.

A division of Facilities Management, Fleet Services handles a range of services including vehicle acquisitions, the campus fueling program, accident management, and vehicle disposal and surplus. The department achieved the Blue Seal of Excellence in 2016 and has maintained this industry standard.

(1) John Horne, Automotive Service Excellence (ASE)-certified mechanic, removes the rim from a tire. (2) Glenn Byrde, ASE-certified automotive mechanic, performs a tune-up on a Facilities truck. (3) Sam Evans III manages Fleet Services with assistance from Quinae Ford, administrative manager. (4) Natasha Carter, ASE-certified automotive parts specialist, checks inventory in the parts room. See more of Fleet Services at c.gatech.edu/fleetservices.

HIDDEN GEORGIA TECH

Hidden Georgia Tech is a photo essay series highlighting places on campus that may largely go unnoticed but are sometimes hidden in plain sight. If you know of a place worth exploring, email editor@comm.gatech.edu. View more from the series at c.gatech.edu/hidden.