Tech Wins Three USG Service Excellence Awards

KRISTEN BAILEY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Last week, the University System of Georgia honored employees all over the state for excellence in their work, and several Georgia Tech employees made that list.

The Chancellor’s Service Excellence Awards recognize USG employees for high levels of performance, highlight service projects and process improvements, and honor a commitment to customer service excellence. The 2015 awards, which recognize work from July 2014 through June 2015, were presented on Wednesday, Oct. 21, at Georgia Perimeter College’s Clarkson campus.

Ever-Increasing Efficiency

Adam Smith and the Compliance and Controls System Improvements Team earned the Bronze Chancellor’s Service Excellence Effectiveness and Efficiency Improvement Initiative Team Award. Smith, an IT support professional, was nominated for his work with the Legal Affairs and Risk Management team in building new Web tools and resources for the Compliance Partners Group, a new group of around 40 mid-level compliance partners on campus.

“Adam will stay up all night figuring out the backend of a process in order for the front end to appear clear, crisp, and beautiful when it is sent out to Georgia Tech users,” said Mia Remn, director of Compliance Partners.

Next Construction Projects Approved by Board of Regents

KRISTEN BAILEY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

During its September and October meetings, the Board of Regents (BOR) approved items related to construction projects, professorships, and rental agreements at Georgia Tech.

At the Oct. 13-14 meeting at Kennesaw State University, the BOR authorized the upcoming renovation of the O’Keefe Building, the Atlantic Drive South steam line project, and the Living Building project.

O’Keefe will get a renovation of office space on the first and third floors for Facilities Management Administration and Design and Construction staff. The project cost of $5,500,000 is being funded by institutional funds, and the work is intended to be completed by December 2016.

The Atlantic Drive South steam line project will replace lines that were originally installed in 1952 between Fourth Street and Ferst Drive. The project will be completed in phases over the next three years at a cost of $12,500,000, also funded by institutional funds. Additionally, the project will include lighting upgrades and streetscape improvements that will replace the existing.

Retirees Keep Connected through Silver Jackets

MARGARET TATE
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Every year, dozens of employees say goodbye to the proverbial 9 to 5 at Georgia Tech, but they do not say goodbye to 11 a.m. to noon, the second Tuesday of every month during fall and spring semesters.

That’s when members of Georgia Tech’s retiree organization, the Silver Jackets, meet to stay connected to one another and the institution.

The group was founded in 2007 at the instigation of Maureen Glass, an administrative manager who retired from the (then) School of Polymer, Textile and Fiber Engineering after 30 years with the institute. “How could I just stop being connected to Tech?” she thought at the time.

There are no membership fees, but the organization does accept donations to its operating and endowment accounts with the Georgia Tech Foundation.

Silver Jackets meetings are held in the Student Center (Room 343) and typically draw around 40 attendees, said Ian Gatland, immediate past president of the organization, who retired as a professor and associate chair of the School of Physics in 2003 after 39 years at Tech. He joined the Silver Jackets in 2008.

Each meeting features a speaker, who gives a 45-minute presentation on his or her area of expertise. “They’re mainly given by people who are associated with Tech,” Gatland said, “but occasionally we do bring in people from outside to talk about interesting things.”

The group’s December meeting is a holiday luncheon, but the most popular meeting every
Music Degree Passes Faculty Senate

KRISTEN BAILEY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

The Faculty Senate gave its approval for Georgia Tech’s latest bachelor’s degree program at its meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 20.

The bachelor of science in music technology will let students pursue an undergraduate degree in Tech’s School of Music; merging the disciplines of computing, engineering, and music in one program. “This makes us one of the only places you can get a degree in music with a concentration in science or engineering,” said Frank Clark, professor and chair in the Georgia Tech School of Music.

The degree will combine professional training in music with interdisciplinary study in mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, computer science, or industrial design. Within the mechanical engineering concentration, students can focus on acoustics or vibrations or controls and robotics. Accompanying the approval of the degree program was the approval of 15 new music courses to round out its curriculum.

The degree program will next seek approval from the Board of Regents.

The Faculty Senate also approved housekeeping updates and other course additions for the catalog.

In other news:
• Vice President of Student Life and Dean of Students John Stein provided a brief update on James Hubert, the aerospace engineering undergraduate student who recently went missing in Atlanta for two days. Hubert remains hospitalized but is expected to make a full recovery, and the Atlanta Police Department is continuing to investigate the incident.

The College of Computing and Georgia Tech Libraries host retroTECH: A Hardware History Exhibit, showcasing historical computing hardware and memorabilia that, together, tell a story about the history of computing and some early ties to Georgia Tech. The exhibit will be on display on the third floor of Clough Commons.

Health & Wellness

Oct. 29
The Mental Health Student Coalition hosts a meeting from 6 to 7 p.m. in Room 117, Student Services (Flag) Building, to discuss actions taken since last month’s mental health summit and provide an overview of current projects.

Oct. 30
The Campus Recreation Center hosts the Halloween Hoops 5K, a free race on the campus Tyler Brown Pi Mile course, at 7:30 a.m. Breakfast is included and costumes are encouraged. Sign up day-of or at c.gatech.edu/halloweenhoops

Nov. 2–13
Open Enrollment takes place for all Georgia Tech employees. Learn more about this year’s benefits at c.gatech.edu/openenrollment

Nov. 4
The 2016 Benefits Fair will host vendors and have information tables about benefits offerings for Georgia Tech employees, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom.

CROSSING INTO THE FUTURE

“Marty McFly,” “Doc Brown,” and their infamous DeLorean made an appearance on Tech Walk on Oct. 21, 2015 — the date they traveled to in Back to the Future II. The appearance was part of a promotion with Dining Services.

In honor of the date, Tobias Wilson-Bates, a Marion L. Brittain Postdoctoral Fellow in the School of Literature, Media, and Communication, wrote on Georgia Tech’s Amplifier blog about how we can learn a lot about ourselves by how the arts portray time travel. Read his thoughts at www.c.gatech.edu/backtothefuture

Staff Council Talks Health Care at Town Hall

KRISTEN BAILEY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Elections for the six open seats on the Georgia Tech Staff Council begin Monday, Nov. 2, and will be open through Nov. 13.

The Council received 61 nominations for the six open positions. It anticipates having new members announced in early December. Staff are invited to cast their votes when elections open at www.staffcouncil.gatech.edu.

Meanwhile, the Staff Council held its second town hall on Tuesday, Oct. 13, providing updates on its work since the spring. The most-discussed topic at the forum was changes in health care premiums that the University System of Georgia (USG) will implement in 2017.

Again this year, health care premiums increased as part the USG’s move toward a defined contribution model for health care, system-wide. This model was approved in 2013 and is expected to be fully implemented for the 2017 plan year.

Under this model, each plan will have an employer contribution of the same amount. Employees will be able to select a plan based on their needs, while getting the same subsidy for coverage. Currently, the USG provides varying levels of subsidy for each plan.

The Council’s standing committees also provided updates. The Employee Engagement group is reviewing staff recognition programs, and other groups are looking at campus options for child care, summer camps, and parking.

Departments or other campus groups who would like to learn more about the Staff Council’s work online or have a representative attend an upcoming meeting or event.

Event Calendar

In other news:
• Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Rafael L. Bras mentioned undergraduate admissions, with the Early Action application deadline for the 2016 freshman class having passed on Oct. 15. The Office of Undergraduate Admission reports that applications are up 27 percent over last year.
• Joe Hughes, professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering and chair of this year’s Charitable Campaign, reminded attendees of the campaign’s goal and why they should give this year. “A surprising number of people right here on campus benefit directly from the campaign,” Hughes said.

The campaign closes Nov. 15. Learn more at c.gatech.edu/charitable
• All standing committees provided annual reports. The Faculty Benefits committee has been working with the Staff Council and USG on the impending transition to defined contribution plans for health care.
• Nathan Moon, research scientist and associate director for research of the Center for Advanced Communications Policy, provided an update from the Faculty Honors committee, encouraging more faculty members to submit and nominate others for wards. Most recently, the awards committee reviewed 26 nominations for nine awards, but hopes for more nominations in the future. “There’s a great deal of excellence going on in the faculty, and we want to honor it,” Moon said.

The next meeting of the Academic Faculty Senate will take place Tuesday, Nov. 17, in the Clary Theater, Bill Moore Student Success Center.

www.facultygovernance.gatech.edu

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Georgia Tech is a unit of the University System of Georgia.
Sixth Annual France-Atlanta Begins This Week

KRISTEN BAILEY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Georgia Tech continues its annual collaboration with the Consulate General of France in Atlanta to present the sixth annual France-Atlanta from Oct. 27 through Nov. 9.

This year’s events, of which there are more than a dozen, will emphasize sustainable innovation. Several events will take place on the Georgia Tech campus, uniting many of Georgia Tech’s top researchers and professors with French counterparts to explore future cooperation and expand Georgia Tech’s global footprint. The event is a local precursor to the international United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris in December.

Meanwhile, each year in France, hundreds of Tech students enjoy an international learning experience through Georgia Tech-Lorraine in Metz. The European campus offers academic and research opportunities for both undergraduate and graduate students, giving them the chance to earn a Georgia Tech education while also gaining international experience.

The French-American series was created in 2010 to foster cooperation and exchange between France and the Southeastern United States in the realms of science, business, culture, and humanitarian affairs. Learn more and view a full schedule of events at www.france-atlanta.org.

Campus events include:
- Seminar and Workshop on the Future of Manufacturing. Oct. 28-29, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Georgia Tech Manufacturing Institute.

The redesignation reflects changes to the donor agreement that let the School deploy the $1.5 million fund to support any combination of faculty positions to meet its needs. Faculty members Han Lu and Chris Jones were appointed to the newly redesignated professorships.

BOR, from page 1

asphalt with brick walkways, creating plazas and connections around buildings in the area. Similar to recent improvements in Harrison Square, these changes will improve pedestrian safety, increase accessibility, and enhance stormwater management capacity. Parts of the steam line further north on Atlanta Drive were replaced earlier this year.

The Living Building project is being funded by a recent $30 million gift from the Kendeda Fund. The building is expected to be the most environmentally advanced building ever constructed in the Southeast and will be integrated into the long-term Eco-Commons project. President G.P. “Bud” Peterson gave a presentation on the Eco-Commons at the meeting.

All three projects had proposed, but not yet been finalised as informational items at the Sept. 15 meeting in Atlanta. At that meeting, the BOR approved the redesignation, the selection of the Love Family Professorship in Chemical and Biomedical Engineering as the Love Family Professorships.

Georgia Tech’s partnership with France includes its European campus in Metz, where students and faculty can reside, take classes, and conduct research as they would in Atlanta.

- Powering the World with Photovoltaics. Nov. 3, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Hodges Room, Energy and Security Building.
- To Dare: Cultures, Sustainability. Nov. 2, 6 to 7 p.m., Stubbins Gallery, College of Architecture.
- An Evening with Sonic Generator. Nov. 9, 8 p.m., Fertl Center for the Arts.
- French-American Chamber of Commerce Crystal Peach Awards. Oct. 28, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Historic Academy of Medicine at Georgia Tech.

SILVER JACKETS, from page 1

year by far. Gatland said, is the annual presentation from Human Resources on health insurance benefits. “These meetings are attended by about 140 people,” he said. “We have to use the Student Center Theater.”

Attendees usually break into smaller groups and head out for lunch after the meetings, Gatland said. Another ongoing activity is assisting with semi-annual campus blood drives. “We have lots of munchies and drinks, and when the students have finished giving blood, our job is to give them something to nibble on and make sure they don’t leave for at least 10 minutes.”

As the Institute celebrates its annual Retirement Dinner on Nov. 3, about 100 employees will move into the next phase of their relationship with Georgia Tech and have the chance to become Silver Jackets.

More information is available at www.silverjackets.gatech.edu.
An architectural rendering shows the completed Crosland Tower and Price Gilbert renovations. What is now considered the back side of the complex will become the new main entrance, with the Hirman Research Building to the left.

Techology also participated in the event.

Library Renewal

The Oct. 22 event discussed the five-year project that is already underway, as the Georgia Tech and Emory University Joint Library Service Center (LSC) is scheduled to open in January 2016. Print collections will be moved to the joint LSC beginning in spring 2016. At the end of December, Crosland Tower will close to the public, with construction on this portion of the project beginning in summer 2016. Crosland is expected to be completed in 2018, at which point Price Gilbert will be cleared out for construction. The full complex is expected to reopen at that time. The phased approach will ensure that one of the two library buildings is in operation throughout the duration of the project.

One new physical element of the renovation will be a Library Store, which will function as the face of the Library. A teaching studio will give faculty and graduate students who teach an opportunity to try new teaching methods and technology, as well as learn new software and hardware features of classroom technology before the first day of class.

An enhanced and expanded digital media center will have experts available to facilitate the use of new technologies and tools used for scholarship and research. An innovation and ideation studio will provide a kind of digital maker space for students to pursue their projects and develop designs.

A scholar’s event network will be housed in what was the original front door lobby of Price Gilbert. This will feature a large space for presentations, such as dissertation defense and small meetings, as well as break-out rooms and exhibit space. Finally, a collaborations showcase will feature unique materials from the Library’s own collections as well as ongoing research at Georgia Tech and materials on loan.

When complete, the Library Renewal Project is expected to double seating space and reduce energy use by 60 percent. The vision is that the Library and Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons will function as an integrated complex.

With the opening of the LSC, both Emory and Georgia Tech will immediately benefit from increased access to each other’s collections. Eventually, the goal is for both institutions to have full access to the other’s collections, both in the LSC and on each others’ main campuses. The collaboration is ideal for both sides, as the collections only overlap by about 17 percent.

“Libraries began as places to talk, think, and motivate each other,” Bras said. “To an extent it feels like we’re coming full circle.”

Presentation materials from both town halls are available at www.provost.gatech.edu.